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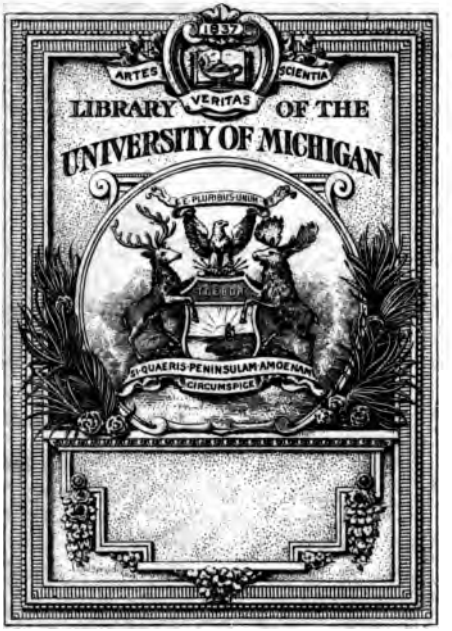
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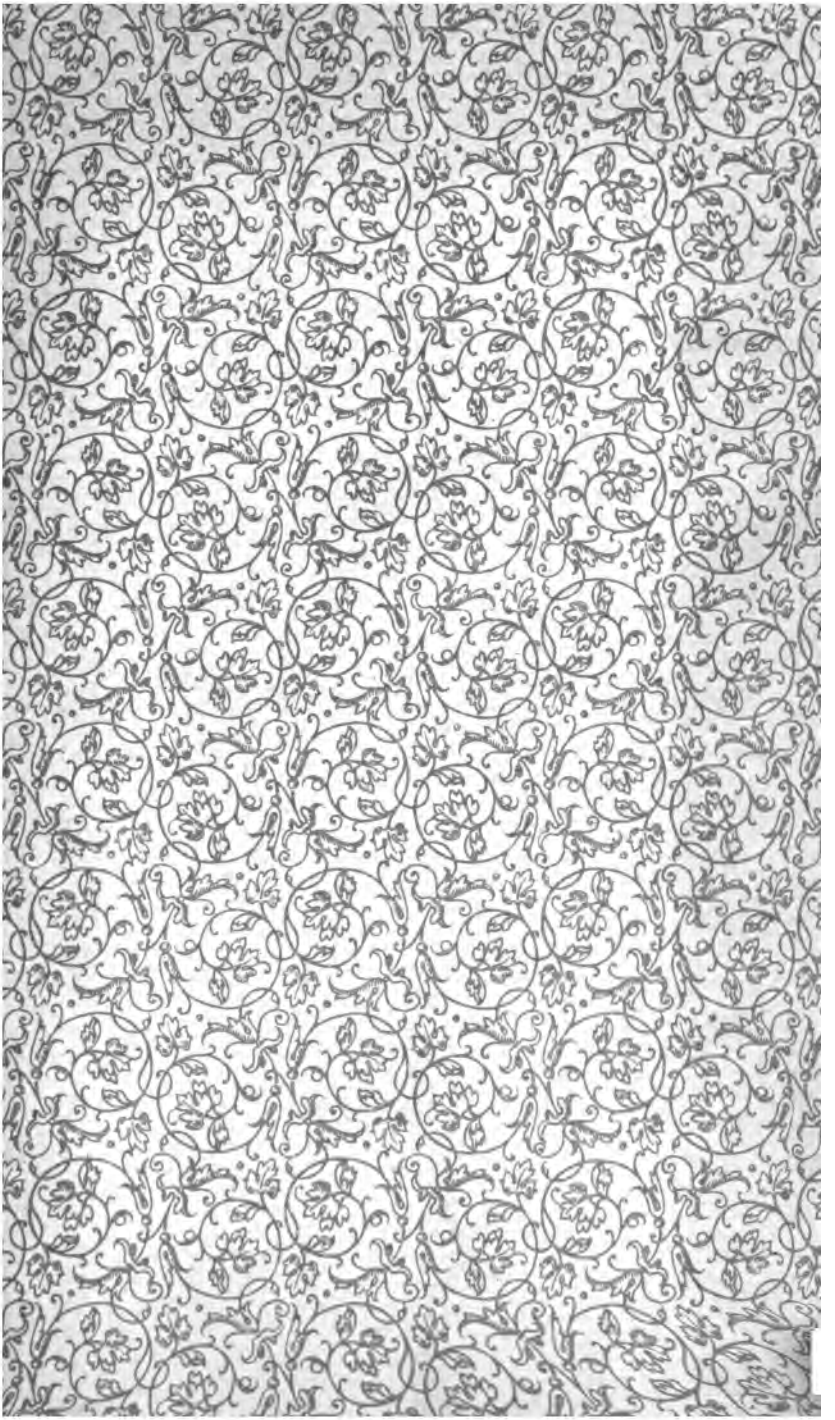

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A

RESTORATION

OF THE

ANCIENT MODES

OF

BESTOWING NAMES

ON THE

RIVERS, HILLS, VALLIES, PLAINS, AND SETTLEMENTS OF BRITAIN;

RECORDED IN NO AUTHOR.

Exemplified in the Derivations of Roman-britiſh, and later Denominations of Diſtricts, Names of the principal Towns, and Appellations of the Features of Nature.

From which *nearly* ALL the Explanations given to theſe Terms, by Verſtegan, Skinner, Vallancey, Bryant, Borlaſe, Whitaker, Pryce, Macpherſon, and other Etymologiſts, are ſhewn to be unfounded.

To this Treatiſe are prefixed, the Principles by which Names were originally formed, from their primitive Gaelic Roots.

BY G. DYER.

EXETER,

Printed for G. DYER, oppoſite the Guildhall;

And, in London, for J. Johnſon, Longman, Hurſt, Rees, and Orme, R. Faulder, Cadell and Davies, Cuthell and Martin, Lackington, Allen and Co. T. Reynolds, W. H. Lunn, J. Mawman, and T. Oſtell.

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1805.

PREFACE.

THE preſent age has been diſtinguiſhed by an uniform progreſs in almoſt every ſpecies of knowledge, and may with propriety be denominated an eminent age of literature. But whilſt we contemplate with pleaſure our ſucceſsful reſearches in ſeveral branches of ſcience, the imperfect acquaintance of the world from age to age, with local etymology, muſt impreſs every reflecting mind with aſtoniſhment.

If we enquire into the cauſe of this very extraordinary phœnomenon, we ſhall find it not owing to the want of men who have applied themſelves to this particular ſtudy; for ſome ſcholars have ſpent almoſt their whole lives in the employment—and our provincial hiſtorians, from long-eſtabliſhed cuſtom, have introduced their works with the etymology of thoſe rivers, towns, &c. which formed the ſubjects of their deſcriptions.

But notwithſtanding theſe labours of eminent men, the derivations of the names of places ſeem to be generally unfounded, and often ridiculous; and the true cauſe of our

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ignorance of local etymology reſts here—Authors have ſought for the roots of ancient names of rivers, towns, hills, &c. where they certainly could not be found, viz. in the Roman, Greek, and Saxon Languages. Or if by chance they have diſcovered the proper language, they have not examined its conſtruction; have yielded rather to their fancy than judgment, and have adduced every thing under heaven, as conferring names on rivers, towns, and hills, except thoſe very circumſtances which had any, the leaſt, probability of claiming that honour.

To explore the etymologies of a few rivers and towns in the vicinity of Exeter, the author of this treatiſe had recourſe to books of cuſtomary reference; and after repeated diſappointments, he diſcovered that to the Gaelic alone were we indebted for the names of all our rivers, hills, and old ſettlements.

He remarked, during his reſearches, that the names of rivers, and nearly all thoſe of towns on ſtreams, meant, at leaſt partly, *water* or *ſtream;* and that *all* the common and known denominations for theſe, were inſufficient

ficient to give peculiar and diſcriminative appellations to the ſtreams of Great Britain only.

But altho' the names for ſtreams and hills were thus infinitely multiplied, or rather varied, he perceived from repeated examination, that they were derived from the ſame original tongue.

Some general and very ſingular method muſt therefore neceſſarily have been purſued in diſtinguiſhing theſe features of nature, and of the ſettlements upon them; to diſcover which the writer collected and arranged the names for ſtreams, and hoped to have diſcovered thereby the neceſſary derivations.

But the initials of theſe denominations were not univerſally commutable; and in the opinion of friends too much was proved by the arrangement.

A cloſer examination now became neceſſary; the initial conſonants were diſcarded, and the remaining parts of the words were again arranged.

But the author had ſtill a ſeemingly Herculean labour to encounter—no leſs than a compariſon

compariſon of the names of rivers and of towns on ſtreams: and even theſe would have been inſufficient, had he not conſidered that a few only of the primitive words for water or ſtream were neceſſary for the ordinary uſes of ſociety; and that the great number of thoſe employed and diſcoverable in names of ſtreams and towns, muſt conſequently be ſynonymes.

He therefore collected all the Gaelic names of water, ſtream, &c. to diſcover ſuch as might have been the common and original ones; and in this enquiry he was perfectly gratified by a full diſcovery of theſe primitive terms.

In chapter the firſt are ſelected words, varied as the reader will there find them, which compoſe the roots of all the rivers in Britain and Europe, if not in the greateſt part of the world.

The firſt ſyllables or *roots* were now for the moſt part accounted for; but the others were ſtill a deſideratum unattainable without much obſervation and enquiry.

On

On conſideration, the Gaelic word *er* was found to imply *great; I, little, ſhallow,* &c.; *on, ſluggiſh* or *deep*. The endings were therefore partly found to be adjectives; and it was concluded that all terminations were the ſame. But explanations of very few endings were to be diſcovered. In this dilemma the author had recourſe to various authorities, to ſynonymes, and to analogy; and he finally perceived that nearly all endings were augmentatives or diminutives.

But the initial conſonants which he had firſt rejected were now to be proved prefixes; and not only a reaſon aſſigned for a ſingle conſonant being ſo called, but why a mute and a liquid were to be thus denominated.

When an etymologiſt diſcovers that he has only a ſingle letter in his way, he leaps over it: but here were often two letters to ſtop the author's progreſs.

Difficulties, from the beginning of this undertaking, had preſſed conſtantly on each other. The prefixes were eaſily diſpatched; but the poſtfixes, changed from time, or corrupted from ignorance, led the author into

into great perplexities, whilſt he was endeavouring to account for the ſynonymes of augments and diminutives.

But time, application, and the reaſon of things, produced the following ſyſtem of etymology, the author hopes, equally ſimple and ſatisfactory. It refers the reader to the language of our aboriginal anceſtors, for the roots of appellations evidently given by them; and the propoſed roots have a viſible connexion with the terms which they illuſtrate. Hence in the names of rivers, towns on ſtreams, &c. the author finds the original words which beſtowed the denomination, given in terms anciently, ſignifying *water, ſtream, hill,* &c. joined oftentimes with ſome diſcriminating marks indicative of their comparative magnitude; and in many caſes deſcribing and actually painting their relative ſituations.

But notwithſtanding what is here aſſerted, ſo much has fancy been indulged by writers on the derivation of names, that the preſent age has been juſtly prejudiced againſt etymology as an uſeleſs and vain ſpeculation. An attempt is therefore made in the following

pages

pages to reſcue from this imputation a ſubject which, as connected with the origin of language in general, is intereſting to every ſcholar; and which, in reſpect to the topography of countries, may enable future hiſtorians to purſue derivations more ſcientifically and accurately.

INTRODUCTION.

IT is evident that the names of rivers and ſettlements on ſtreams muſt be very ancient. In a country firſt diſcovered there was preſented to its primitive explorer, land, water, or rivers: perhaps *the waters*, or *the ſtreams*, conveyed the *ſame* idea. He had heard no particular names for theſe, nor had he obſerved the qualities belonging to them: they were therefore called ſimply waters, rivers, ſtreams, &c.; and the term by which he denoted his own ſtream, became the perpetuated name of his dwelling.*

For waters or ſtreams of other ſettlements, diſtinguiſhing names or ſynonymes muſt have been adopted; but at every colony the terms water, river, lake, brooke, &c. were anciently, as at this day, ſufficient.

In time new adventurers arrive, the territory is enlarged, the former being inſufficient, additional ſynonymes muſt be received from the common ſtock of the known languages.

* It muſt be obſerved, that ſome word for *Border* was often added to the term uſed for water or ſtream, in giving denominations to places on rivers, *hills*, &c.

It was neceſſary alſo when men had formed a regular ſtate, and when every part was to be ſubjected to general regulations, that they ſhould take different names for their dwellings. They had been accuſtomed to a few general terms for *water, ſtream, hill,* &c. but when theſe were required to be multiplied or varied, every new village was diſtinctly denominated, and often by an addition to, or an alteration of the initial, belonging to the original name. Thus different denominations, though ſynonymes, were given to each townſhip on the ſame river; and altho' one ſtream had ſometimes two or more names, from running through different territories, or by ſeveral towns, in general the chief village, or reſidence, gave perhaps diſtinction to the whole river.

Society being originally formed of clans or families, and each living within its own bounds, or on its own ſtream, the ſame names ſometimes occurred in each townſhip; and hence the reaſon that ſo many rivers and villages received nearly the ſame appellations.

Mr.

Mr. Chapple has enumerated 100 Devonſhire ſtreams: more than 200 might have been reckoned, had ſmaller ones been taken into the account.

The ancient common terms which obtained in the world for water, were never ſufficient to have named the rivers of many a ſingle ſtate, without too frequently employing the ſame denomination. And the variety of PECULIAR *names* derived from COMMON *ones*, were produced by *prefixes* and *poſtfixes*, which infinitely varied the words for ſtream.*

Still however the ſame appellations often occurred; but at one place the dialect was diſtinguiſhed from another, and the vowels and conſonants often exchanged. To account for the change of vowels is not difficult, for even at this day are they often employed indiſcriminately in pronunciation;—but to aſſign a cauſe for the mutability of conſonants, it muſt be conſidered that the labials *B. F. M, P.* and *V;* and the palatals *K, C,*

* The numberleſs hills of this country more eminently exhibit this wonderful contrivance of ſynonymes; for to deſcribe their natural features, they muſt in their roots all ſignify hills. Of their prefixes and poſtfixes the ſame may be ſaid as of thoſe in ſtreams.

G, Ch, T, D, Th, S, Z, &c. were readily exchanged for each other. Even *L, N,* and *R,* called the *immutable,* have been changed in numberleſs inſtances.

The *proper* names of places on rivers and hills, thus originally given, were eaſily learnt, and without difficulty remembered. At this æra they are unknown except in ſound; but to thoſe who gave theſe denominations, they muſt have been familiar as to ſenſe.

To give names eaſily diſtinguiſhable, it was neceſſary to adopt the ſimpleſt mode; and no diſcrimination could have been leſs complicated than the change or addition of initial letters, without deſtroying the roots of the original words. What were ſtill wanting in augments and diminutives, *heretofore totally overlooked and unknown,* though few, ſhort and expreſſive, were anciently eaſily underſtood and readily applied.

Theſe plain, ſimple, and diſcriminative terms, firſt conferred on places for convenience, or from neceſſity, removed for ever the uncertainty of their ſituations; and the primitive roots *only* were afterwards wanted

for

for the *common* appellations of water, ſtream, hill, &c. The ſynonymes were therefore retained in the names of hills, rivers, villages, or towns only; and their meanings muſt have become obſcure to ſucceeding generations even of the ſame people; but to ſubſequent coloniſts of different languages they were *totally* loſt.

In the following work we have given derivations publiſhed by other writers, to guide the reader's judgment. On whatever ground theſe are taken, he will find in them not leſs to blame, than in thoſe drawn from the ſimple principles above delineated.

Writers conſulting the idiom of their own language, and though acquainted with the words, yet not diſtinguiſhing its phraſeology, have imagined the firſt parts of names of rivers, and towns on ſtreams, to have been adjectives, and the next ſubſtantives. On this fatal road to etymology, not diſcerning that they have taken a path directly oppoſite to the true one, and loſt their way in tracing the deſcent of the original words, are we preſented, by all our authors, with perverted derivations and unnatural deductions.

Hence

Hence our rivers are ſuppoſed to have been denominated from the woods growing on their banks, though no ſuch wood ever grew there; from the lands or dwellings around; from the quality or colour of the water; the ſituation, the inhabitants, the animals, and even the birds frequenting them! *But theſe we muſt admit with great caution—perhaps not allow in the names of ſtreams.**

Had the names of rivers and of old towns been received from the firſt ſettlers, we might

* In Lhuyd's appendix to Baxter's gloſſary, inſtances of rivers are given ſuppoſed to have taken their names from the *colour of water*, *ſand*, &c.—from *animals*—from the *motion of rivers*—from the *various channels* or tracts of waters—from *inſtruments of various uſes*—from *places which rivers paſs by or flow from*—from *plants* and various other particulars.—Thus the *gavr* is ſaid to mean a *goat*, from the leaping of its waters over ſtones in floods.—The *turch* or *turgh* is rendered *hog*, from its floods "tumbling up" gravel.—The *ban* is ſaid to imply *pig*, for the ſame reaſon.—The *jurch* is called *roebuck*, from its ſwift current.—The *elain* or *eland* a *fawn*.—The *heſpin* or *heſpyn* a *ſheep that yields no milk*, from the river being ſometimes dry.—Many other examples of equally ſtrange import might be tranſcribed.

[This great man, to whom I am infinitely obliged, conceived that all the conſonants had been originally uſed as prefixes; but he diſcovered not to what uſe this might be applied in the derivation of rivers, towns on ſtreams, hills, &c.]

eaſily

eaſily have found their derivations; but the aborigines have been driven out, and ſucceeding hordes have in ſome inſtances added to or altered; and in others miſtaken their old appellations

Independently of ſuch reaſons, we find the language of the ſame nation always varying, and new epithets frequently obtaining general reception. In the revolution of ages, the changes in names keep pace with thoſe in languages; but greater alterations have taken place ſince the conqueſt, in the names of places, than from the firſt ſettlement of this iſland to that æra. For that time we have the names in doomſday book; and, however altered or miſtaken in their orthography, we generally diſcover from them the true derivation.

The race of the original diſcoverers of this land has been long ſince expelled: we conceive that it named the great features of our country. our ſtreams, and our old towns.—Other ſettlers have ſucceeded, and our beſt authors have imagined, that from the language of theſe, the names of rivers, hills, and old

old habitations are derived. In the following ſheets we ſhall fully confute this opinion.*

* We find indeed that in America the original names of the greater rivers and mountains have triumphed over the names of the latter coloniſts. The blue ridge is loſt in the old appellation of the allegany mountains; and at this moment St. Domingo reſumes its antient name of Hayti.

A NEW

ETYMOLOGY

OF THE

Names of Rivers & Towns on Streams.*

CHAP. I.

Of the PRINCIPLES of DERIVATION in the NAMES of RIVERS, and in TOWNS on STREAMS.

THE following words in the Gaelic language denote *water* or *ſtream*, (to wit.) AN, AD, AMH, or AV, EASC, or ESC, &c. OICHE, written OC and OCK; and theſe, with their ſynonymes as in the following tables, I conſider as the ROOTS OF WORDS, ſignifying *water* or *ſtream*.

They are varied as underneath:

I.

An Water,
is *On* in the Oney,
is *Un* in the Unes,
is *In* in the Inny,
is *En* in the Enian

* This treatiſe was originally intended for no other names, but it hath been extended to hills, and to other parts of nature, on the ſame principles.

2.

Ad, At, or *As,* Water,
is *Ed, Et,* or *Es,* in the Eden in Eton
is *Id, It,* or Is, in the Idel, Ituna, &c.
is *Od, Ot, Os,* in the Odel, the Otter, &c.
is *Ud, Ut, Us,* in the Uſway, &c.

3.

Amh, or *Av,* ſynonymes *Ab, Af, Ap*
is *Ev,* at Ev-erton
is *Iv,* in the Iv-el
is *Ov,* in the Ov-er, &c. &c.

4.

Au Water, ſynonymes *Ar, Al, Alf, Af,* &c.
is *Eu* in the Eu-el, or Ewel
is *Or* in the Ore
is *Il* in the Ilen
is *Ar* in the Arrow

5.

Eaſc, or *Eſc,* or *Ex,* Water
is *Aſc,* or *Ax,* at Axmouth
is *Oſc,* or *Ox,* at Oxon
is *Uſc,* on the Uſk
was *Iſc,* in Iſca Damnoniorum
now *Eſc,* or *Ex*

6.

6.

Oiche, otherwiſe *Oc, Och,* or *Og,* Water
is *Ock,* in Ock-ington
is *Ec,* in the Eccleſbourne, &c.

Ean, which is the ſame as *An,* Water, may be varied as follows; and it will be found in names of places that many of theſe variations have been adopted:

Ean	Ian	Oan	Uan	Aan
Een	Ien	Oen	Uen	Aen
Ein	Iin	Oin	Uin	Ain
Eon	Ion	Oon	Uon	Aon
Eun	Iun	Oun	Uûn	Aun

Ead ſeems alſo to have been written for *Ad,* and may be varied as the laſt—*Aid, Ait,* or *Ais,* as *d, t,* and *s* were commutable letters, would be alſo ſynonymes, from whence *Bais, Cais,* &c. *Water* or *Stream* are derived, as will be ſhewn in the following pages.

The *augmentative* poſtfixes are *mor, er,* (or rather *ar, or, ur*) *ou, oll, ou, un, an, all, od, ot, os,* &c.

The *diminutive* poſtfixes are *I, in, min, fin* or *fion, en, el, is, it, et, eoc* or *eog, ig,* or *ic,* &c.

CHAP. II.

Of PREFIXES.

THE vowels have generally a conſonant or conſonants prefixed in the proper names of rivers.

In Lhuyd's Archælogia there are a variety of inſtances of *mutes, liquids,* &c. thus prefixed; and in page 40 he ſays,

"I have already (page 19, col. 3) recommended to the obſervation of the curious, whether it has not been heretofore the practice of other languages, to vary their initial conſonants, after the manner ſtill retained in the Britiſh and Iriſh.—*I muſt now further declare it my conjecture, that anciently conſonants have been occaſionally premiſed to moſt words* (IF NOT TO ALL.) *beginning with vowels and ſequels,** as has been obſerved of the letter *G*, page 9, col. 2. And as it is yet practiſed in reſpect of *T* and *N* in the Iriſh. The conſonants ſuppoſed to have been ſo introduced are what is here meant by prepoſitives. *But*

* After I had written nearly my book, I found the above paſſage in his *appendix* to the comparative etymology.—This was a part to which I had not often referred; and mere chance directed me to it; but I quote it with pleaſure.

how

how right or erroneous may be is left to the reader, to infer from the following and ſuch like examples."

The examples given by Mr. Lhuyd are from words of the ſame meanings taken from *different* languages; but I will endeavour to trace them in the *ſame* language.

All the conſonants, except *C,* are acknowledged by Bochart, and others, to be prefixes†; and this alſo is ſo in a variety of inſtances which I ſhall produce in the names of rivers, and towns on water.

If I am rightly informed, the Hebrew roots of words exceed not three letters; and theſe, with prefixes, poſtfixes, and letters inſerted, compoſe the language. In the ſame manner I find words formed in the names of our rivers, and not only a ſingle conſonant, in various

† In the eaſtern and Gaelic languages.—Before we proceed, ſays Gen. Vallancy, in his proſpectus, "It is neceſſary to inform the reader that the Iriſh takes, or requires the ſame ſervile letters as the Chaldæan and Hebrew languages do, which are alſo common in the Arabic. This is a principal point in the formation of all oriental languages, that has not been noticed by Iriſh lexiconiſts, and has cauſed a wonderful confuſion."

caſes,

caſes, but a mute and a liquid will become a prefix.

Mr. Whitaker, in his hiſtory of Mancheſter, ſays, that all names of rivers "MEANT ORIGINALLY WATER OR STREAM;" but he conſidered theſe names "*general and uncharacteriſtic*, and only diſtinguiſhed by a different appellation." In the former part of this paragraph, this learned author's opinion was well founded; in the latter part he was greatly miſtaken. I have endeavoured to aſcertain various meanings in the terms water, ſtream, hill, &c. A few nice and perhaps many neceſſary diſtinctions in the force or natural meaning of conſonants—together with the preciſe ſenſe of augmentatives, diminutives, and of roots, in the original language of rivers, hills, vallies, and plains, anciently well known, are for ever loſt. But perſons ſkilled in the Iriſh, Erſe, and other languages, ſtill remain; and by theſe ſome other varieties of particular characters may yet be reſcued.

I ſhall now attempt to *illuſtrate* and *confirm* Mr. Lhuyd's *conjecture*: ſhould any one be inclined to depreciate his diſcovery, I earneſtly requeſt that a more rational ſcheme may

may be pointed out. To avoid, however, all occaſion of cenſure, and to evade all charge of unneceſſary innovation in explaining the names of rivers and towns, I ſhall employ words with initial conſonants, and their ſynonymes, except in a very few inſtances: and even in theſe few I ſhall bring irrefragable proofs of the propriety of my adopting the roots, and uſing prefixes.

But before I undertake generally to illuſtrate Mr. Lhuyd's conjectures, I ſhall analyſe the *Gaelic words* for water and ſtream, beginning with conſonants.

B or P,

In the Gaelic is ſaid by authors to be a prepoſition and a prefix, and it is the ſame in eaſtern languages. *Av, Au,* and *Ar* are Gaelic for water, and *Bar* is ſtream. *Ir* from *Ar* is alſo water, and *Bir* is water or ſtream. *An* is likewiſe water, and *Ban* is ſtream. Many other examples may be adduced to prove *B* a prefix.

C or K

Is a prefix: in the Gaelic *An* is water, and *Can* is lake or ſtream. *Ead* has been written for

for *Ad* water; and in the changes of *Ead*, in the ſame manner as *Ean* in the laſt chapter, *Aid*, *Ait*, and *Ais* would, with the prefix *C*, become *Cais*, and with the prefix *Cl*, *Clais*; either of which will be Gaelic for ſtream. Hence *C* and *Cl* are prefixes in theſe examples, as well as in others which will be given.

D.

This letter and *T* are known prefixes. *Au*, *Ar*, *Or*, or *Ur*, is water, with *D* prefixed *Dar*, *Dor*, or *Dur* will be water or ſtream.—*Av*, *Ov* and *Ob* mean water; with *D* prefixed we have *Dob* Gaelic for ſtream. Other examples may be brought to prove this letter a prefix.

F

"Is a prefixed particle of inference, an expletive."—*Oiche*, *Oche*, *Ache*, *Iche*, or *Ighe*, is water by the laſt chapter; with *Fl* prefixed, we ſhall have *Fliche*, or *Flighe*, which is Gaelic for ſtream; *Au* or *Al* is water, and *Ual* by the addition of another vowel is the ſame. We have with this prefix *Fal* a ſtream, and *Fual* Gaelic for water or ſtream: *F* is therefore a prefix in theſe inſtances.

G.

G and *C* are convertible, and *Au* and *Al*, and *Ou* and *Ol* are water; and *Gol* and *Col* are

are Celtic words for water or ſtream. *Cais* is Gaelic for ſtream, from *Ais* water, with *C* prefixed ; *Gais* is alſo the ſame.—*Can* is Gaelic for lake or ſtream; *Gan* is the ſame. *Al* being water, *El* and *Il* will be ſynonymes for the ſame as in the *Ilen* or in *Ilford*. *Gil* is alſo Gaelic for water or ſtream, and *G* is conſequently a prefix.

H

Is demonſtrated to be a prefix in the following treatiſe.

L,

An, On, En, and *In* is water, *Lhyn* or *Linne* is lake or pool, *Ou* is water, and *Lo* or *Lou* is ſtream. *Lua, Lia,* &c. are alſo Gaelic for ſtream : *L* is therefore a prefix in theſe names as it is in the Hebrew and Iriſh. Great bodies of water are named with *L* as a prefix.

M and N

Are not initials in the Gaelic names for water or ſtream, but are ſerviles in the Iriſh language, as *Athair, Nathar, Father; Ail, Nail,* a ſting, &c.

R

Is not an initial in the Gaelic names of ſtreams or water, but in *Rian,* or, as General

Vallancy writes it, *Rain*, from *Ain* water, is a word generally applied for the ſea.

S

Is a well known ſervile, as in the river *Sid*, and is convertible with *T*—*Ad*, *At*, *Ut*, or *Uth*, *(ud)* water, with *Sr* as a prefix will become *Sruth*, and is Gaelic for ſtream.—*Eamh*, as *mh* is in Gaelic *V*, becomes ſreamh, or ſreav, and is Gaelic for ſtream.—*Al* or *El* are ſynonymes of *Au* water; with *S* prefixed we have *Sel* a ſtream, or *Selian*, a little ſtream or rill. Hence *S* and *Sr* are prefixes.

T,

Ain or *En* is a ſynonyme of *An* water by the laſt chapter. With *T* prefixed it is *Tain*, which is water or ſtream; and hence *T* alſo is a prefix. This letter is a prefix in the Iriſh—thus *Ucht* or *Tucht* is time: *Uiſe* or *Tuiſe* rhyme; and ſometimes a poſtfix, which is generally commuted with *D* or *Dh*, with an hiatus not ſounded.

Whether theſe prefixes were originally employed for forming *proper names* for ſtreams, according to my opinion, or for ſome other purpoſe, I leave to the reader's determination after

after perusing what is here said, and the following pages; in which I shall shew that prefixes also were employed in naming hills and other features of nature.

To prove Mr. Lhuyd's conjecture that the ancients prefixed all the consonants to words for water, stream, &c. which began with vowels, we may proceed as follows:

To *An*, water or stream, they prefixed *B* in the river *Ban*, *C* in the river *Can*, *D* in the *Dan*, *L* in the *Lane* or *Lan*, *N* in the river *Nan-ny**, *T* in the *Tan-at*, &c.

To *Ad*, water, &c. is prefixed *L* in the river *Lad-en*, *M* in *Madus*, the old name of the *Medway*.

To *Amh* or *Am*, water, &c. is *C* prefixed in the rivers *Cam* and *Cam-el*, *T* in the *Tam-es* and *Tam-er*, &c.

To *Av*, water, *T* is prefixed in the *Tav-y*, *D* in the town of *Dav-erton* on the Exe, *R* in the *Ravius*, *S* in the *Sav-eren*, *T* in the *Tau*, *F* in the *Faw-y*, &c.

* The second syllables are postfixes only, and will be treated of in the next chapter.

To *Ob*, water, &c. *D* is prefixed in *Dob*, Gaelic for ſtream, *T* in the *Tobius*, *S* in the *Sob*.

To *Ar*, water, &c. *C* is prefixed in the *Car*, the *Car-ey*, the *Car-ah*, and the *Car-ron*, *P* in the *Par-rot*.

To *Ir*, a ſynonyme of *Ar*, water, at *Irford* and at *Ir-on-Acton* on the *Stoure* and *Laden*, there is no prefix; but *B* is prefixed in *Bir*, the Gaelic for water or ſtream.

To *Id*, a ſynonyme of *Ad*, water, is *S* prefixed in the *Sid*, *L* in the *Lid*, *N* in the *Nid*, *P* in the *Pid-del*, &c.

To *Av*, *Iv*, *Ov*, *Af*, *Al*, *Il*, *Im*, *Am*, and many other monoſyllables for water or ſtream, in the names of places, on rivers, and of the rivers themſelves, they prefixed conſonants, as in *Tau*, *Tiv*, *Dav*, *Bir*, *Gil*, *Tale*, *Bov-y*, *Tame*, &c.

To *At*, *Od*, *Ed*, *Id*, *It*, water, they prefixed *D* as in the Gaelic *Dot* or *Dod*, a ſtream, *B* in the *Baud-er*, *M* in *Madus*, *B* in the Gaelic *Baiter* and *Bait*, which laſt, as *ai* was ſometimes pronounced by the Corniſh as *e*, becomes *Bed* or *Bet*, &c.

From

From *An* or *Ean, am, on, un, in, en,* water &c. we find derived *Tain, Cam, Don, Dan, Tun* in *Tunbridge, Bean, Ban, Can, Lan, Lon, Nan, San,* and many other names and parts of names in our rivers.

To *Ad, Av,* or *An,* water, the following liquids have been prefixed in the rivers *Ravius, Read, Rian, Rother,* &c. The *Lad-en, Liv-er, Lod-er, Lud, Lav-ant,* &c. The *Nadder, Nedd-er, Nod-ius, Nab-æus, Nid, Nen,* &c.

From theſe examples will follow this

GENERAL RULE:

If *B* or *any other conſonant* be a prefix to *Au,* water, it will alſo be a prefix to any ſynonymes of water, *en, ad, am, av, Eſc, Och, Ean,* &c.

To prove from Gaelic terms for water, and words for river, ſtream, &c. that a mute and a liquid in the beginning of names of ſtreams form a prefix, we may thus proceed:

For BL, BR; PL, PR, &c.

Ban, from *An,* water, &c. with the ſervile *B,* is known to imply a *ſtream;* with *L* inſerted *Blan* or *Blane;* with *R* interpoſed *Bran* or *Brane.* Again, *Bad,* from *Ad,* water, and

and *B* prefixed is ſtream; with *R* or *L* inſerted it produces *Brad* or *Blad*, as mentioned before. Hence then *Bl* and *Br*, in the rivers *Bl-ane, Bl-ith, Bl-aid-noo, Bl-en-go, Br-ad-field, Br-ad-ford, Br-ane, Br-ant, Br-ay, Br-ay-an, Br-ent, Br-et-on, Br-it-on, Br-id-y, Br-ide*, &c. will be prefixes. For as *ad, an, au*, &c. are ſynonymes of *aid, en, ad, ane, ant, ent, ay, ith, id, et, ide*, &c. in the above rivers; and theſe names, independent of *Bl* and *Br*, mean *water* or *ſtream*: *Bl* and *Br* are prefixes in the names of theſe rivers.

For CL and CR; or GL and GR, &c.

Clais is a word found in Welch dictionaries, and is ſaid to imply a rivulet; but this ſeems not well explained. *Es* or *Ais* is a ſynonyme of *ad* or *as, ead, eat, eas*, water or ſtream; and with *Cl* muſt certainly mean *ſtream in general*, as well as *rivulet in particular*. In the Gaelic a ſynonyme of this word is explained more correctly. *Cais* is there ſtream; with *L* inſerted this would be *Clais*, and mean exactly as here ſtated. But *Clais, Cles*, or *Clis* being ſtream, and *R* and *L* uſed for each other; and the endings of the following ſtreams in *d t c* being commutable with *s* in *Clis* or *Clais*, theſe ſtreams, *without*

their

their poſtfixes will mean the ſame as *Clis*—to wit:—*Cl-ed-agh, Cl-uyd, Cl-eth-y, Cl-et-on, Cl-ett-er, Cr-eed-y* or *Cr-id-y, Cr-ock, Cl-at-ford, Gl-aſ-on*, &c.

Can, from *An water*, with *C* prefixed, is a *Lake*, and often means a *Stream*; with *L* or *R* inſerted we have the *Cl-un, Cl-an, Cl-an-may, Cr-ane, Cr-and-on*, &c. Again, *Au* is *water*, with the prefix *T* it becomes *Tau*, which is known to mean *ſtream*; with *C* prefixed *Cau*, and with *L* or *R* inſerted in this laſt *Clau* or *Claw Crau*, or *Craw*, (and as a letter ſomewhat like *Y* was formerly uſed by the Romans for *U*), *Cray, Clay*, &c. to which we may add (as *U* and *R* were commutable) *Car* or *Carey, Clare*, &c.

The names of all theſe, independent of *Cl* and *Cr*, mean *water* or *ſtream*; and hence *Cl* and *Cr* are prefixes only in the names of theſe rivers. But as *Bl, Br*; *Pl, Pr*; *Fl, Fr*; *Cl, Cr*; *Gl, Gr*, are univerſally prefixes; and as *Cl, Cr, Gl Gr*, are ſynonymes of, or commutable with, *Sl, Sr, Tl, Tr, Dl, Dr*; theſe laſt mutes and liquids in the beginning of words are prefixes alſo, which is what I propoſed to demonſtrate.

But

But I add a few examples of theſe laſt:

FL and FR

Might be referred to *Bl* and *Br;* but *Fl* is a prefix in the Gaelic name for ſtream *Fl-iche.*

SR or SL.

Sr is a prefix in the Gaelic names *Sr-eamh,* and *Sr-uth,* and *Sl* will conſequently be the ſame. With *T* inſerted we derive our word *ſtr-eam. Str* is therefore a prefix as it is in the river *Str-oud,* &c.

TR and DR.

Tr in the *Tr-ov-ius* is now become *R* in the *R-av-ius* (which is the ſame ſtream with the former); and *R* is a prefix to *Av, water* or *ſtream:* and as *Tr* and *Dr* are the ſame, *Dr* in the *Drave* is a prefix alſo.

As *Tr* was a prefix to *Av,* water, ſo it would be to *en* a ſynonyme of *An,* water, and therefore *Tren* would mean *ſtream.*—*Tren* was according to MSS cited by Lhuyd the old name of the *Trent;*—*D* and *T* were added, he ſays, from corruption; but I conceive they were at all times naturally ſubjoined to ſtrengthen the ſound of the ſyllable.—The derivation of the *Trent* was unknown.

known.—From what has been ſhewn may be deduced this

GENERAL RULE:

If *Tr* or any other mute and liquid be a prefix to *Av*, water, it will alſo be a prefix to any other ſynonymes of water, *en, ad, am, au, ar, Eſc, Och, Ean,* &c.

I have now ſhewn for Mr. Lhuyd that conſonants are prefixed to words which *ſeem of themſelves* to ſignify water or ſtream; but I aſſert not that *ſome* of theſe names, beginning with initial vowels, are not the endings of words, *originally* beginning with conſonants.

In ſome climates, vowels as initials may be more ſuitable to the organs of ſpeech than in others. If however we had anciently words for every name of our rivers, we muſt have had many thouſands of names; and of theſe I might ſay, nearly all are omitted in our dictionaries and lexicons, and the endings only remain as our guides. But we have the endings and, with the prefixes in rivers, their beginnings alſo: and it is no difference whether the words were formed from monoſyllables with initials vowels and conſonant pre-

 fixes;

fixes; or whether with theſe prefixes they were originals or ſynonymes: in either caſe we have grounds to proceed upon; in one caſe particular; in the other general ones. But I conceive that when the roots of words ſhall be well eſtabliſhed, and the conſonant prefixes perfectly underſtood, the derivations from thence will be as certain, and in moſt caſes more juſt, than from words given at length, without perfectly underſtanding their component parts. In the term *Clais* we have proved this. In *Eaſcong*, which is always rendered *water* only, the poſtfix *Ong* means *clear, clean,* &c. and the whole word *clear* or *clean water*. *Broſnach* and *Amhain* alſo, which are rendered *river* or *ſtream* only, will be found not correctly explained.

When I conſider that prefixes in the names of ſtreams have been for ſo many centuries unknown, the thought excites in my mind aſtoniſhment. Some of theſe are certainly very evident; but I ſhall ſelect two or three only.

IVEL and WIVELCOMBE, or WIVELSCOMBE.

The firſt is a name implying *little water*, from *Iv*, a ſynonyme of *av* and *el*, a diminutive

tive ending: and this is the name of a ſtream that runs by *Ilcheſter* or *Ivelcheſter*, in Somerſet.

In the ſame county, near the head of the river *Tone*, and on the border of this river is the pariſh of *W-ivel-combe*, or as commonly written *Wivelſcombe*. Wivelſcombe, ſays Skinner in his Etymologicon, "In Com. Som. Ab-Angl: Weevel Curcullis et Comb Vallis collibus utrique obſita!"

Mr. Collinſon, in his hiſtory of Somerſet, ſays, "That various etymologies have been given for *Wivelſcombe*. Some, ſays he, have imagined that it derived its name from the number either of *Weevils* (or Grubs, *Weſt* being the Saxon term for that inſect), or of *Weaſels*, with which the coombe or valley might formerly have abounded: others laughably enough have conjectured that the name *Wivelſcombe*, or as they call it *Wife-leſs-combe*, originally aroſe from the circumſtance of the place being formerly inhabited chiefly by prieſts, who during the celibacy of the clergy lived here in common, and officiated in the neighbouring pariſhes. Another conjecture, he continues, may yet be hazarded, that the

name is compounded of the Saxon word *Wefels*, which implies a *close covering* and COMBE, *the usual name in that language for a valley;* which indeed is really the case, the spot being on every side, except a small opening towards Taunton, shut in by lofty hills, covered with rich and beautiful woods."

But *W-ivel* or *U-ivel* the same as *Ivel* implies *the little water or stream. S* was a Saxon addition or their genitive singular ending. COMBE, *rightly defined*, is a corner, valley, bottom, or middle, surrounded on every side *except one* by a continued ridge of hills; and *Wivelscombe* means the *combe of the little stream.**

In

* *Combe* or *Com* has been said to be Saxon and Welsh, and not belonging to the Irish or Erse languages; but "Cummaraice a valley; a people living in a country full of vallies and hills," is mentioned by Mr. Shaw. *Cubbar*, Gaelic, was a *corner*, and as *bb* was *v* or *m*, *Cumar*, the confluence, would also mean *corner*; and *Cummaraice*, as *aice* is tribe, would be rightly explained the *tribe, corner*, or *valley*. The word is not wholly lost in Devon, although Combe, the abbreviation, is all that is now generally used. Thus we have a NARROW *corner* or *combe* enclosed by hills near Exeter, called the *Cummary*. We have also *Stoke Gomer* in a valley, on the south-west side of Quantoch, Somerset; and several towns with the prænomen *Gomer*, and *Comer*. But *Combe* may be derived from

In the county of Devon we have the town of OCKINGTON, or rather OCKINTON, which means alſo the *little water or ſtream town*, from *Oc*, water or ſtream, *In* a diminutive ending, and *Ton* a town: or as there are two ſtreams meet at this town, the word *may* imply the ſtreams town. But *In* means perhaps *territory*, or *border land*; and accordingly the Saxons tranſlated it by *Ham*, border.

In the ſame county is the pariſh of C-OCKINGTON, or more rightly C-OCKINTON.——"Cockington, ſays Skinner, in his Etymologicon) in Com. Dev. Pagus forteâ celebri

from the Gaelic thus:—*Uim* is land, &c.—*Ar* or *Aire* is a band, chain, &c.—*Umaire* is a chain of hill or ridge——And *C-umaire* or *Cumar* implies a point, or place where ſtreams, roads, ridges, or any thing elſe meet, as well as confluence, interſection, &c. The Gaelic word *Cubbar*, which is the ſame as *Cumar*, is alſo rendered a corner. Hence then might the Gaelic word *Com* or *Cum*, without the *ar* or the *band*, become the name for the VALLEY or MIDDLE between the two ridges, in the ſame manner as it denotes the *middle* in other inſtances. After *m* in *Colum*, and in many other names of ſtreams, &c. a *b* is frequently added from corruption; and we know that the *b* in *Comb* is added in the ſame manner.——I have now analyſed the word Combe, and ſhewn that it may be derived from the Gaelic. As I proceed I ſhall prove all other adjuncts in the names of places to be derived from the ſame language.

Gallorum

Gallorum pugnantium Ludo, qui olim ibi celebratus eſt: V: Cock and Town!"

I need not inform the reader that *Ockinton* and *Cockinton*, now *Ockington* and *Cockington*, imply the ſame; both are derived from the water running through theſe pariſhes. The letter *g* after *n*, in *writing* the names of places, is a modern addition wherever *in* is a diminutive ending; although *ng* or *gn* was an old *pronunciation* of *n* when *n* was uſed as a heavy conſonant.

Uxbridge, on the *Colne*, in Middleſex, is ſaid to have been anciently named Oxbridge and W-axbridge, in which denominations the mutability of the initial vowels is apparent; and in the laſt name it is evident that the prefix *w* made no alteration in the meaning of the word. The ſame may be proved from the names of other places.

To conclude this chapter, we find conſonants were often prefixed even in the names of men and women, as well as rivers, to form a ſtronger ſound; and notwithſtanding the addition of a letter, they univerſally ſhorten and render leſs open the pronunciation. Thus Ann was called Nan;

NAN; EDWARD, NED; OLIVER, NOLL; ELEANOR, NELL; WILLIAM, BILL. A river in Ireland, from AN, WATER or STREAM, and I or Y, SHALLOW or LITTLE was named NANNY, i.e LITTLE AN or WATER; *and for theſe reaſons perhaps, as well as for varying names were prefixes originally adopted.*

CHAP. III.

Of POSTFIXES.

From the laſt chapter it appears evident that *prefixes* to words denoting water or ſtream were adopted in naming rivers, lakes, and ſtreams; and it is the object of this to ſhow that *poſtfixes* were added to the names of rivers and hills alſo. All knowledge of prefixes in the names of rivers, &c. muſt be allowed to have been loſt, and conſequently the meanings of words, and their poſtfixes, muſt in nearly all names, *except the common ones* for water, river, hill, &c. have been forgotten.

The *diminutive endings* which *will not* be controverted, are *in, an, en.* But theſe are alſo plural endings in the Welſh, Corniſh, and other languages.

The

The *augmentative endings* in ſingle hills are *on, an, au, ou,* or *ow, ar, or,* &c. and theſe are without diſpute augments; although they may be alſo plural endings.

All the above endings are Gaelic adjectives or commutable with adjectives: but terms in the Corniſh, Welſh, and other languages, neareſt the orthography of the names of ſtreams, (though generally furtheſt from the ſenſe) including plural endings, which happened to be ſimilar to the old words for water, &c. with augments and diminutives, have been conſidered as etymons, generally however without any reaſon, and without any analogy to the original roots. Every little ſtream or rivulet *with* a poſtfix was ſuppoſed to imply *waters* or *ſtreams*; but *without* a poſtfix both little and great were often rendered *water* or *ſtream* only. Hence the *Trent*, would be rendered STREAM. The *Corin** STREAMS. Moreover, *I* or *Y* in the endings of names was an old plural ending; and in the Gaelic this letter means *ſhallow* or *little;* but this has been accounted neither a plural nor a diminutive ending, and has ridiculouſly

* Whitaker's Manchester.

culouſly been rendered contrary to all analogy, in names of ſtreams, *water.*

Further, the endings *on, an, ou, or,* and many other ſhort ſyllables in the names of ſtreams have been accounted plural endings; but theſe endings in the names of ſingle hills have been reckoned to imply nothing! Thus conſiſtently are plural endings employed to ſupply the places of poſtfixes!

Of other endings in names, *Ham,* which meant originally *border* or *hem,* is now rendered *village.*—*Lea* or *Ley,* originally a ſtream, and *Leigh,* which may imply an *hill,* are now underſtood to imply *fallow land.*—The endings in *Berry* or *Bury,* which mean *little tops* or *borders,* are rendered by ſome of our beſt antiquarians *tops* and *bottoms,* thus making the ſame word repreſent a thing and the contrary. *Staple,* or *Stable* in *Barnſtaple, Barſtable,* and other places, which mean the *ſettlement of a tribe,* is rendered *mart* or *market. Worthy* in the ends of names is generally underſtood to imply a place between the fork of two ſtreams; but this too means *little border. Stoke,* which in the names of places moſt times means *water* or *hill,* and ge-

nerally the laſt, is rendered *poſt, pillar, root*; and Dr. Pryce renders *Calſtock, hard ſtock* and *hard oak!* Many other endings of names rendered equally inaccurate will be noted as we proceed. To conclude, hills, ſtreams, plains, vallies, towns, &c. are very frequently imagined by authors to have been anciently named by *adjectives*, which certainly could not be names for any parts of the univerſe.

Having ſpoken generally to this head, I will now attend to its particular parts; and firſt prove that diminutive poſtfixes were added to the names of ſtreams, &c.—*Sruth* is Gaelic for ſtream; *Sruthan* is *little* ſtream; *Alt* is ſtream; *Altan* is *little* ſtream; *Sel* is ſtream; *Selian* is rill; *Lo* is water or ſtream; *Loin* is rivulet. In the Corniſh *Rhyn* is hill, *Rhynen* is hillock: and that *in, an, en*, are diminutive endings in a great variety of Gaelic words may be ſeen in books of the Gaelic language; and will be eaſily diſcovered in the names of ſmall ſtreams.

"*Ick*, ſays Dr. Pryce in his Corniſh vocabulary, being a termination of many places formerly *ek*, I take it to ſignify either a creek, rivulet, or brook." *Ick* has perplexed our writers

writers for want of due conſideration only. This word may be either a *ſubſtantive*, or a diminutive ending: it means *water* or *ſtream*, when derived from *Oiche* or *Oc* water, as ſhewn in chapter the 1ſt; and as uſed in *Ickford*, *Ickingham*, &c. But it is otherwiſe a *diminutive ending* in ſtreams, &c. and implies the ſame as *in* or *i*, as will be proved in the river Torrige. This ending is the ſame as the Armoric *Ic*, which is alſo a diminutive. Of this word we refer for further information to the word Huiccii.

In early times it was neceſſary for inhabitants paſſing rivers to be informed whether they were *little*, *ſhallow*, and *paſſable*; or *great*, *deep*, and *impaſſable*; and the names of ſtreams we conceive included augments and diminutives expreſſive of ſuch particulars.—Theſe augmentatives & diminutives however have been ſuppoſed to be plural endings.* But we find many ſtreams named in the ſingular number only; and that too, by way of eminence, without any poſtfixes: thus the *Don*, the *Rhine*, the *Elbe*, the *Trent*, and

* In the hiſtory of Mancheſter *Corin*, which means *little ſtream*, from *cor* a *ſtream*, and *in* diminutive, is rendered *waters*.

many other large rivers; and theſe compoſed of as many *tributary* ſtreams, as thoſe to which he plural numbers have been attributed.

We find alſo in *Eaſc*-ONG, rendered *water*, that the poſtfix *ong* means *clean, clear*, &c. and the compound word *clean water*. "*Ach* likewiſe being ſubſtituted inſtead of the ending of the dative plural, forms an augmentative noun, as *in* does a diminutive one, by abſtracting the laſt ſyllable of the genitive caſe." Hence *Broſn*ACH, which is rendered *river* only, *may* imply *great ſtream*. But that *augmentative poſtfixes* were added to *ſtreams*, though not attached to names for water or ſtream in dictionaries is evident: for as they had in the old language manifeſtly terms for *little* ſtreams, we cannot but ſuppoſe that they had words for *great* ones. Hence *ar, on, o, ou, oll, an, am*, &c. are found poſtfixed in the names of their ſtreams, hills, &c.

Further, to confirm the above ſtatement, we refer to the Italian: In this language they have alſo augmentative and diminutive poſtfixes, and theſe ſo nearly like thoſe in the names of rivers, hills, &c. that we are obliged to account them the ſame; and to acknowledge

ledge them to be derived from the ſame ſource. I therefore tranſcribe Mr. Baretti's account of a few :

"The general rule to diſtinguiſh the various ſignifications of AUGMENTATIVES, ſays this author, is, that terminations in *one* and *ona* indicate *bigneſs* and *ſloutneſs ;* in *otto* and *occio* they indicate a compact and not *diſpleaſing bigneſs.* Thoſe in *accio* and *azzo,* bigneſs, as well as *wickedneſs* and *contempt.* In *ame* they increaſe indefinitely the number. DIMINUTIVES in *ino, etto, ello,* denote *endearment* as well as *ſmallneſs ;* in *iccio, icchio* they indicate *deſpicable pettineſs.*

The SPANISH language has likewiſe the ſame AUGMENTATIVES *on, ote, azo.* The DIMINUTIVES *ito, ico, ete, *uelo, ejo, illa, ita, eta, uela, eja.* And all theſe poſtfixes *may* belong to ſome old language from which the Italian, Spaniſh, and even perhaps the Gaelic languages, as well as the language of rivers, have borrowed their original endings.

It will appear evident from the names of the Torrige, that *Tori* and *Torin* were the ſame

* *U* was often in the original language pronounced as *I.*

ſame ; and *i* in this and other inſtances ſeems only to be a contraction of *in*. The *Aubeg* alſo in the county of Cork, which means *little* water, from *au* water, and *beg little*, is likewiſe named *Mulla*, from *mul* a ſtream, and the diminutive *an* evidently contracted to *a*. Moreover the *Loman* (or rather *Lomen* as anciently written) is alſo named *Sunin*, from *lom* or *ſun* a ſtream, and *an* or *en*, and *in* little. Hence *an* or *en*, and *in* or *a*, *e*, and *i* in the names of ſtreams may mean the ſame. If this ſhould be granted, then the augmentatives may alſo have been abridged, but to this I ſhall attend as I proceed.

It ſhould excite no ſurpriſe to find among the various endings of words poſtfixes ſimilar to the plural endings of the Welſh, Corniſh, and even Gaelic languages. Theſe were moſt probably derived from ancient augments and diminutives : thus originally adopting terms for *great* to repreſent *many ;* and words for *little* to denote *few*. For example, *mor* great, implies alſo *many*. *Beg* and *gan*, which mean *little*, imply alſo *few*. Hence the endings of many other words denoting *great* might alſo imply *many ;* and ſome of thoſe denoting *little*,

might

might mean *few;* and from each of theſe claſſes, or from their roots, were adopted perhaps plural endings: but theſe augmentatives and diminutives we muſt *generally* diſtinguiſh as adjectives only; and not render compound names of ſtreams as if they were plural numbers, as many authors, unconſcious of any impropriety, have done. On the whole, the reader ſhould examine whether plural endings agree with reaſon; and if not, he ſhould ſearch for the original words. The taſk I have found in ſome caſes eaſy and certain; in others troubleſome and doubtful. In general, however, the names of *high hills,* as well as thoſe of great ſtreams, will prove that theſe endings are, *for the moſt part,* augments. Thus, *Neaſon,* a ſingle hill in the middle of the county of Devon, means *high hill,* from *Neas* an hill, and *On* deep or high; *Cauſ-on,* another *ſingle* round hill, and the higheſt in Devon, implies alſo *great hill* or *mountain,* from *Caus* an hill, and *On* an augment; *Penmanmaur* means the great or high round hill; *Skiddaw* or *Skiddau* implies alſo the great hill. But theſe will be further explained in the ſequel.

When we conſider *water* in the abſtract we apply

apply to it ſome general term; when we ſpeak of it as a *ſtagnant pool* we uſe *loch, loch-an,* &c.; *when as running water in one body* we conſider it in the *ſingular* as a *ſtream,* and apply the word *dob, ſreamh,* &c.; if running in more than one body, the *plural* number is adopted: thus for a town at the confluence of rivers we may employ a plural termination. But, *after ſtreams have joined they are one river*, and cannot with any propriety be called *waters* or *ſtreams.*

In rendering the old names for *water* or *ſtream* into Engliſh, authors have imagined that the ancients added to them terms for water or river. At preſent we ſay the river *Exe,* or the *Exe* water, *Exe* ſtream, or *Exe* river. But the earlieſt inhabitants of this iſland knew the word *Exe* implied *water,* and that it *was* a *running ſtream;* and added not *water, ſtream,* or *river* to the name.

We have mentioned that one river had formerly as many names as ſettlements on its banks; and that the principal ſtation gave denomination to the whole ſtream. In a few inſtances, however, the ſtream has retained two names, as in the *Lomen* or *Sunin;* and

in

in ſome caſes theſe are repeated perhaps without any connecting word, to ſhew that they are two denominations of the ſame ſtream.

To conclude this part it will be neceſſary to obſerve, that at a late period, or in the times of inhabitants who knew not the original language, we may have had a few inſtances of modern poſtfixes added to rivers' names through ignorance; and theſe may not ſometimes be eaſily diſtinguiſhed from the old terms for *water, ſtream,* &c. Add to this that the roots of terms, and their additions are ſometimes nearly the ſame. Hence difficulties ariſe, and miſtakes may be the conſequence. In great or ſmall ſtreams we have generally augments and diminutives; and unleſs ſome thing very particular is attached to them, we ought to account theſe, *however corrupted or diſguiſed,* original parts of the names; their *beginnings* are ALWAYS the words for water or ſtream.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Change of Letters in Syllables.

"L, grammarians ſay, is called a liquid becauſe of its ſoft and melting ſound; and being placed

placed between a mute and a vowel, it renders the ſyllable more gentle. From the ſoftneſs of *R*, it was often dropt as in writing. Thus *rurſus, prorſus*, &c. were written by the Romans *ruſus, proſus*, &c." "In effect, ſays my author, there was that agreement between the ſound of the *S* and *R*, that as the Romans avoided the doubling their conſonants, it was no wonder that they dropped the *R*—the *S* ſupplying the place of both."

"From the ſame ſoftneſs of ſound (continues this writer) of the *R*, it came to be uſed indifferently with *L*, in many words; as in *Latialis* and *Latiaris*, tho' the *R* was oftener changed into *L*, as *Lemures* for *Remures*; and the ſame is done between *U* and *R*."

To the above we ſhall add, that *A* is Gaelic for an hill, pronounced ſometimes *au*, as in *ſhall, call*, &c. Before vowels *H* was uſed in ſpeaking, tho' not written, as an initial in the Gaelic language—Hence *Hau* or *Haw* is therefore *hill*, and is the name of one between Plymouth and the ſea: *Hal* is the ſame in *Haldon*, a hill near Exeter: *Har* in *Harrow*, the higheſt hill in Middleſex.—Thus alſo *Bial*, *Biol*, or *Bual*, is water, and *Bior* is the ſame

ſame. And it muſt be obſerved that endings in *U*, where an augment or diminutive followed, were *neceſſarily* to avoid the claſhing of vowels, changed to *L* or *R*. Theſe and the following directions of the uſe and the convertibility of *U*, *L*, and *R*, and which the reader will find no where elſe fully treated of, ought to be well conſidered in rendering old names.

But to return to my author—"*S*, he ſays, hath met with different receptions. Some have rejected it, others affected its uſe. It hath been changed into *T*. *Merſare* has been written *Mertare; Pulſare, Pultare.* On the contrary, *Duſmoſæ* has been written *Dumoſæ; Caſmoenæ, Camoenæ.*" And we muſt add *water* has been written in Gaelic *Baiter* and *Baiſter*. For other changes, I refer the reader to Lhuyd's Archæologia, and to the following treatiſe, under the article London.

CHAP. V.

Of Letters inſerted in Syllables.

All names of rivers originally meant water or *ſtream*, as has already been obſerved: and we may add *a great number of the names of towns on ſtreams.* Our province is therefore

to inveſtigate from what roots only ſuch denominations are derived, and how the names of theſe rivers and towns are formed. From the following or like principles ariſe the reaons of many inſertions.

It muſt be conſidered that vowels have often been multiplied in words: thus *Ac* has been written *Auc*, at *Auc-cote*, an abbey near Poleſworth, Warwickſhire, and this is alſo named *Aulcote*. *Aucombe*, in Somerſetſhire, has alſo been named *Alcombe*. *Hacombe* means *Hill Combe*, as will be ſhewn in the following tract. *Hocombe* alſo, and *Holcombe* imply and are written for the ſame. *Arcole*, in Salop, is likewiſe named *Akhul*. Hence *Au* and *Al*, and *Ou* and *Ol*, from the laſt chapter, the above examples, and from the concluſion of the head London, are ſynonymes of *Ar* or *Or*; and conſequently *Auc*, *Arc*, or *Ark*, and *Alc*; and *Ouc*, *Orc*, or *Ork*, and *Olc* are alſo ſynonymes in the names of our rivers and towns on ſtreams. Hence alſo *Ac* or *Ak*, water, with *R* inſerted, becomes *Ark*,* a river in Yorkſhire. But not only *Ark* is a

* *Irke*, in the Hiſtory of Mancheſter, is tranſlated *waters*; but *Irk* is a ſynonyme of *Ark*, and means *water* only.

ſynonyme

ſynonyme of *Auc* or *Auk*, but *Ank* alſo: for *Aukcote* is ſituated on the river *Anker*, and that *N* and *U* are convertible in a variety of inſtances may be ſeen in Lhuyd's Archælogia.

The CALN, ISTER, ELBE, &c.

From *Can* or *Caun*, a *lake* or *ſtream*, comes *Caln*. With *S* inſerted in *It-er*, the *great* or *border*, *water* or *ſtream*, is produced *Iſter*.—With *L* interpoſed in *Eb* (or from *Eub*) *water* or *ſtream* is derived the *Elbe*, in Germany: and *Elberton* (in Glouceſterſhire, on the river Severn), which means the town on *the great water or ſtream*.

Innovation and novelty, affectation and the deſire of rendering names more harmonious, have, I conceive, produced many changes. Had we not been left with numerous inſtances every where around us, the before-mentioned inſertions might ſtill appear as ſolitary examples only. But we have proofs of alterations in words, and additions of letters in ſpelling them in names without number—thus, *Alfington*, in Devon, written now *Alphington*, was always pronounced *Afinton*. *Daverton*, the old name of a town in the ſame county, is now affectedly written *Thorverton*.

Calverleigh,

Calverleigh was always pronounced *Caverleigh*; *Chulmleigh, Chimleigh*; *Alvington, Avinton*; *Halberton, Haberton* and *Harberton*; *Holcombe, Hocombe*; *Holne, Hole*; *Liſtleigh, Liſleigh*; *Sampford, Sanford*; *Sandford, Sanford.* The Yalm, or *Yealm*, a river in Devon, was always pronounced *Yam*; *Walkhampton, Wakinton*; *Oakhampton, Ockinton*; *Marlborough, Malborough*, &c. In theſe words the liquids are plainly inſerted letters, as the old names are the ſame as in the pronunciation, not in the orthography; and in other places where they have obtained pronunciation they are not leſs ſo.

From *Ockinton, Wakinton*, &c. it may be noted that the *in* has become *ham*. And from all theſe names it appears evident that places as *pronounced* are, as many authors have obſerved, nearer the original words, than thoſe with the inſertion of liquids. A great variety of other alterations take place from the changes and inſertions of letters in names of places, all of which have greatly perplexed writers of local deſcriptions; and to account for theſe, many idle and laughable derivations are ſcattered over their works.

ILLUSTRATIONS

OF THE

PRECEDING PRINCIPLES,

BY

Examples of Derivation,

GENERALLY SUPPOSED DIFFICULT;

And of verbal Errors which occur in Works of local Deſcription.

The

The River DART, Devon.

The words Moor *and* Mere.

THE *Dart* riſes in *Dartm oor,* and has been derived from the Armoric word *Dart,* denoting as the Engliſh of the ſame name: but time has corrupted this appellation; for in the itinerary of Richard of Cirenceſter, it is named *Durius;* and *Durius* or *Dur,* water, has from time become the Dart, juſt as the *Tren* has become the *Trent.*

Mathair or *Mothair,* pronounced *Maer* or *Moer,* has become *Mere* and *Moor,* and means the *mother,* as well as the *reſervoir* or *ſource* of water or rivers; and lands around theſe took their names from this Gaelic word.—*Moer,* in Dutch, from whence *Moor* is generally underſtood to be derived, is, as well as in Engliſh (in ſome parts of our kingdom), a clowniſh expreſſion for mother: it means too, in both languages, a *marſh* or *fen;* and the Dutch *Moreas, Moreaſh,* or *Marſh,* is derived from it. Common lands, to which no ſuch derivation of moor will apply, may be ſo called from ſome other cauſe; but the *Axe,* the *Exe, Culm, Tamar, Torrige, Tau, Tavy, Teign,* and in general the rivers of Devon riſe in places termed moors,

In

In ſpeaking of *Crau-meer*, the water ſource in Dartmoor, Riſdon ſays "It is the mother of many rivers." Donn, in his map, calls it *Crau-mere*, vulgarly *Cran-mere*. In Mr. Gough's Camden it is rendered *Grand-mer*. But *Cran* and *Crau* uſed indiſcriminately are derived from *An* or *Au*, water or hill, with *Cr* prefixed. It muſt be obſerved that ſome rivers have dropped initial conſonants, and others taken a prefix of one or more letters. Thus the Trobis or Trovius became the Ravius. We have the *Lun* and the *Clun*, the *Lan* and the *Clan-may*. *R* and *L* were uſed without diſtinction, as has been already ſhewn —the *Clan* may therefore be the *Cran*; and as *N* and *U* were changed for each other, and as *An* and *Au* are both water, *Cran* or *Crau* may be deemed the ſame word in ſtreams or ſources. Hence *Cranford*, *Crauford*, or (as *U* was often pronounced like *Y*) *Crayford*. Hence alſo the river *Crane*, and conſequently *Cran* or *Crau-mere* will imply the water or river ſource; but if *Au* or *An* ſhould mean hill, then the *hill*, *ſpring*, or *ſource*.

CRAN MERE, *Somerſet*.

"Watered, ſays the hiſtorian of the county, by ſeveral rivulets from ſprings riſing

in the parish. The name, he says, signifies *marshy grounds infested by cranes*, from *cran* the Saxon for a *crane!*

This derivation is borrowed from *Skinner*, who renders *Cranbourn* as follow: "Cranbourn in Com. Dorset. (i. e.) *Fons seu amnis gruum.*" To confirm this Mr. C. states, "that the eastern extremity of the valley through which the rivulets run, is at this day distinguished by the name of *Mere Head*, and the adjoining meadow *Mere Mead*; and although cranes, he says, are not so abundant as anciently, when multitudes were among the dainties provided at public entertainments mentioned on record, yet of late years these birds have been observed in greater numbers than in other places." Thus far have corresponding sounds misled good authors!

Mr. Whitaker, in his history of St. Germans, traces the history of Saints, whom he supposes to have given names to parishes.—The following is his derivation of

MOREWINSTOW:

"Yet Morwenna, says this gentleman, went away with her sister into the contracted angle of

of Cornwall, on the north-eaſt. There, ſome miles to the north of Marham church, and at the apex of the angle, we have what is denominated by the firſt valor, without any expreſs ſpecification of the ſaint, yet with a ſecret reference to her "Eccleſia de Morewinſtow," in the encroachments of the Saxon upon the Corniſh of this peninſula, the pariſh having adopted the name of its ſaint, with a Saxon name like Padſtow for its own name; and being denominated Morewyn*ſtow* or place. We thus ſee it equally denominated "Morwinſtow" in the laſt, and *we know* it to be dedicated to St. Morvenna."

In the names of ſeveral Corniſh pariſhes there ſeem to ariſe proofs that ſaints neareſt the ancient denominations were adopted at dedications; but whether Morewinſtow was thus dedicated is not my preſent enquiry.— In deriving appellations we muſt never loſe ſight of the great features of nature. In Dartmoor I have ſhewn that *moor* or *more* means the *ſource* or *fountain* of water; *uin* or *win*, from *an*, *ean*, &c. implies water or ſtream, as will be proved in various places; and *ſtol* and *ſtow* were not originally Saxon as above repre-

ſented, but Gaelic, and mean, according to Shaw, a *ſeat, village,* or *ſettlement.** The rivers *Tamar* and *Torrige,* riſe in a *moor* in *Moor-win-ſtow.* Hence the reader will readily perceive that this name means the *water ſource ſettlement.* And Mr. Whitaker will find that Marwenna and other ſaints, as well as Morwenna, gave not names to places. As we proceed this will be further elucidated.

MORETONHAMSTEAD, or MORETON, *Devon.*

"q. d. ſays Mr. And. Brice, *Moor-Town-Home-Stead,* if I miſtake not *Hamſtede,* in the Saxon meaning *Homeſtede* or *Home Place;* it is ſo named from its ſituation near Dartmoor."†

Borlaſe, ſays an author, diſcovers the traces of Saturn, Mars, and Mercury, in the names of ſeveral places where his rock idols are ſituated; and this writer himſelf gives ſeveral other inſtances in Devon. Among theſe he ſays "*Hamſtorr* is the rock of Ham or Ammon; and the numerous *Hams* in Devon-

* Compare the ſynonymes of the words *Aras* & *Seat,* v. 1 & 2 of Shaw's Gaelic Dictionary.

† Brice's Topog. Dict.

ſhire‡

ſhire‡ he further ſtates all carry us to the ſame original." In a note on this ſubject he explains theſe by "places conſecrated to the god Ham, or coloniſed by Ham the ſon of Noah."†

On the contrary Mr. Salmon, in his Eſſex, aſſerts that "*Ham* is no more than a MANOR HOUSE; and that the reſt of the houſes of villanes, bordars, &c. make a HAMLET!"—*Ham* will be explained in this article. *Leat* ſaid by ſome authors to imply a ſmall ſtream, and by Mr. Marſhall, in his rural Economy of Devonſhire, to be a corruption of *lead* or *conductor*, comes from *leath* changed to *leat*: it means *half*, a *part*, or a *diviſion*—Hence *hamlet*, *ſtreamlet*, &c. *Leat* will alſo denote ſtream, from *ead* or *eat*, water, with *L* prefixed.

Mr. Brice has given the commonly received meaning of *Moretonhamſtead*: but the town is now four miles from Dartmoor. The river *Wrey* riſes within this pariſh, and runs by the border of *Moreton*, to which its ſource may

‡ We have many hundreds of fields on the borders of towns, rivers, and hills, named *bams*.

† Hiſtorical Views, p. 55 and 56.

poſſibly

poſſibly have given denomination. The name of this place is truly remarkable for containing three words, *Ton*, *Ham*, and *Stead*, each of which is commonly ſuppoſed to mean *town* or *village*: and as ſeveral towns in this kingdom have partly the ſame terms contained in their names, I ſhall endeavour to explain them.

HAM has perplexed writers, and its derivation is generally unknown. It has, like all other adjuncts, been derived from the Saxon, and ſaid to imply a *home*, *dwelling-place*, *borough*, *town*, *village*, or *farm*. The Gaelic has no *H*, and the word *am*, which is varied to *hem*, is preſerved in the Welſh, and means *round*, *about*, &c.; but in the primitive language it muſt have meant the ſame as *ham*. When *H* is an initial in other languages, the Iriſh often begins with an *F* or an *S*. The word in Gothic is *Haim*, but I find it neither explained in Gothic or Saxon dictionaries which I conſult. In the Gaelic the word is *Faime*, and implies *border* or *hem*. Hence then our *South Hams* are the *ſouth borders* of the county of Devon. *Broad Hembury* and *Pey Hembury* derived originally perhaps from

Broghda

Broghda great, and *beg, peg,* or *pey* little, will imply the great and little border towns.—*Broad* and *Little Hemſton* (pariſhes on the Dart) will alſo mean the ſame. Laſtly, fields around towns, or on rivers named Hams, will imply the border lands. But towns and villages being built on *Hams,* and the original word becoming obſcure, the term has been miſtaken for *village, home, dwelling-place,* &c.

Stead is alſo attributed to the Saxon language, and "in the name of a place that is diſtant from any river, it has been ſtated by authors to be derived from *ſted* a place; but if it be upon a river or harbour, it has been derived from *ſteade,* a ſhore or ſtation for ſhips." But this word comes from the Gaelic *ſtaid,* a *ſtation,* or *ſettlement.* In Doomſday this town is written Moreton only; *Hamſtead* ſeems an addition not eaſily accounted for.

KELHAM & AVERHAM, *Nottinghamſhire.*

Throughout this work the preſent ſtate of etymology muſt neceſſarily be ſhewn, and the uſual modes of rendering terms muſt be compared with the principles inveſtigated in this treatiſe. A late county hiſtorian inſerts a communication which he conſiders of the "higheſt

"higheſt importance to etymological enquiries." *Kelham* and *Averham* in this are rendered "a *place in a bottom or hollow*, and *a place of meadows*." *Werth* or *worth* alſo in the names of places, is ſtated to imply "a *river iſland*." The ſignification of theſe names was drawn from the German language; but we need not conſult the German. The ancient language in which the features of nature were actually deſcribed ſhould only be reſorted to. A celebrated German author of the laſt century ſought for the derivation of the *Elbe* in his own language; and from the word *Elva* or *Elve* he rendered it eleven heads or ſources, or eleven ſtreams. Dr. Adam Littleton alſo in his Latin Dictionary derived this ſtream from the German word *Halb*, half, becauſe he ſaid the ſtream divides the country into *two halves!*

In the above tranſlations of *Kelham* and *Averham*, *ham* has been totally miſtaken.—*Av*, in *Averham*, ſhould without doubt be conſidered *water*. The various meanings of *er* we have in ſeveral places mentioned; and its particular import in this pariſh will be eaſily underſtood by thoſe who are acquainted with the ſituation of the place. *Kel*, in Kelham,

ham, will imply perhaps the ſame as *Kel* in the river Kel-yn—*ſtream*. Of the derivation of *Werth* or *Worth* I ſhall treat in the following pages.

The River TEIGN

Hath been derived from "*Tain*; or, ſays an author, from *Teg, fair, clear, pretty*, &c. and *Afon*, a river, contracted into *Aun*; ſo *Teg-aun* (ſince ſhortened into *Tegan* or *Teign*) denotes a *fair* or *clear river*. Either of theſe ſeems preferable to Baxter's *Iſc-tene* or *Teniſca*, i. e. *Tenuis aqua*,* for the Teign is far from being a ſmall ſlender ſtream."

This word comes from the *Gaelic* word *Tain, water* or *ſtream*. When *n* is uſed as a light conſonant, as in *Drewſtainton*, it is pronounced *Tain*; but when employed as a heavy conſonant it has a *g* poſtfixed†; and then *Tain* is written *Taing, Teing*, or *Teign*, and pronounced *Ting* or *Teng*, as at *Teingmouth* or *Teignmouth*.

The River ARME

Has been derived from *Iar* and *Yr*, prefixed to *Am*; from *Ara* and *Armor*; but General

* Baxter's Gloſſary, page 220. † Vallancey's Grammar.

Vallancey and Mr. Polwhele derive Arminton, Devon, from Armenia or the Armenians. "It was with theſe Armenians (ſays the General, on the authority of Sir George Yonge) that the Phœnicians traded for tin: and we have at this day many places of Phœnician origin in their names in Devon and Cornwall. And in the ſouth-weſt of Devonſhire there is ſtill a river Armine; and the town and hundred are called Arminton to this day."*

The above remarkable inſtance ſhews our ſlight acquaintance with the derivation of rivers; and points out the neceſſity of attending to this head in hiſtorical diſquiſition.—Fable will always mix itſelf with truth; but it ſhould be the employment of etymology to withdraw the veil of fiction.

This river is derived from *Am* or *Aum*, water, changed to *Arm*, as ſhewn in chap. iv.—*In* may be a diminutive, or it may imply border or country. *Armin* may therefore mean the *little ſtream* or the *ſtream border*, and *Arminton* the little ſtream, or the ſtream border, town. Hence the ſuppoſition of an Armenian colony, giving denomination to this

* Hiſtorical Views of Devon.

river,

river, pariſh, and hundred, is evidently without foundation.

The Rivers SID and TALE.

The *Sid* is derived in a MS of Devonſhire ſtreams and pariſhes, from "*ſaeth* an arrow," "from the Saxon word *ſide*, which implies *long* and *wide*," though this river is a ſhort and narrow ſtream; and "from riſing at *Sidbury*, and SHEDDING *itſelf into the ſea* at Sidmouth." But *ſid* comes from *id*, a ſynonyme of *ad* water, with *s* prefixed. Thus according to Holwell, in his Mythological Dictionary, the river *Indus* was named *Sindus*; *Ur*, of Chaldea, was named *Sur*; the Elli Prieſts of the Sun were named *Selli*: hence *s* is a prefix only, in the *Sid*, which means *ſtream*. A place on this river is named *Idford*.

The *Tale* is accounted in the Hiſtory of Devon "*an original word, and ſaid properly to ſignify water iſſuing from the end of a lake.*" But *Tau* means ſtream; *u* was commonly changed to *l*: hence *Tal* or *Tale* implies ſtream.

The CULM,

Derived by authors from *Cylm*, rapid, or rather a *ſlow* ſtream. It has been alſo derived from *Kulm*, a pigeon, and this was generally eſteemed the etymon; but the pigeon and this ſtream having no reſemblance in nature, firſt prompted me to conſider this ſubject more cloſely.* Nothing during my reſearches have I kept ſecret, and from my openneſs have long expected that ſome induſtrious author might have filled my place. In the hiſtory of Devon the *Culm* is derived from *Culmen*, becauſe it originates from the hill juſt above *Culmſtock*; nevertheleſs the author rather ſuſpects that *Columbton* is the right name of *Columpton*, ſignifying the *Sancta Columba* or *Iona*. In *Columb John* both words he thinks are united; for though pronounced *John*, he ſuppoſes it ſhould be *Columb-Jon*, the ſacred word for a dove.—Thus, *Doſbury*, he renders *Dovebury Hill*.

But *an*, or *on*, water, with *c* prefixed is *Can* or *Con*, the Gaelic for a lake or ſtream; with *l* inſerted, as by chap. v. it is *Caln*, a ſtream in Wiltſhire, or *Coln*, a ſtream at Colcheſter:

* For this Hint I was indebted to a Friend.

juſt

juſt ſo *Am, Om*, or *Um*, water, with *c* prefixed, is *Cam, Com*, or *Cum*; with *l* inſerted, *Cum* will become *Culm*, and mean ſtream: but in the pronunciation this word is always divided into two ſyllables; and towns on this ſtream in Doomſday were named *Colun* and *Colum*: the ending *m* took place of *n* in early as well as in later times, and hence no difficulty ariſes. The *b* and *p* in Columbton and Golumpton were alſo modern additions in this as well as in a variety of other town's names. *Colun* in Doomſday ſeems to be written by miſtake for *Colen* or *Colin*. The pronunciation is ſtill *Colem*, the *n* only changed for *m*. *En, in, i*, and ſometimes *e* are diminutives. In Culmſtock there is a hamlet named *Culliford*; in *Uffculm* an eſtate called *Colleford*. An owner of the land of *Culum-John*, in 1233, was named John de *Culm*; but as *Colun* only was the name in Doomſday, Colum took the adjunct *John* from the poſſeſſor of the pariſh, and not from *Jon* as Mr. Polwhele imagined. Moreover in an alphabet of ancient arms, in Sir William Pole's collections for Devon we have thoſe of *Colin* of *Colinſtoke*. From hence it appears that this river might originally be named *Colen* or *Colin*; and that it has from time become

Colun,

Colun, *Colum*, and laſtly *Culm*. *Dobury*, more rightly Dob-*bury*, which Mr. Polewhele renders Dove*bury*, is derived from the Gaelic *Dob*, a ſtream,* and *bury*, *a hill or camp*.—This fine hill, which was an old ſtation, and on which Romen coins have been found, is ſituated near the border of the *Culm*; and the name means *ſtream-hill*.

The River COLLY

Is ſaid to imply "the *hazel brook*, from *coll* the hazel or nut tree, and *y* water.† To every thing upon earth have ſtreams been referred for names.‡ In the Culm we were conveyed to heaven! But *y* in *Colly* implies not water, but is Gaelic for *ſhallow, low, little*; and *Col* has been ſhewn to mean ſtream: hence the *Colly* is the ſhallow or little ſtream.

Y or *i* are alſo diminutives in our own language, though not obſerved by grammarians: for we may ſay *Johnny* for little John; *Tommy* for little Tom, &c. And it ſhould be obſerved that the final conſonant is *doubled* to form the diminutive ending; and to ſhorten the ſound of the vowel.

* The River *Dove* is derived from this Gaelic Term.
† Baxter's Gloſſary.—‡ Hiſtory of Devon.

The

The AVON

Is generally tranſlated *river*. Mr. Whitaker ſays that "*Avon* is contracted into *Aun, An,* or *Un:* and as *D-avon* and *T-avon* are both the ſame with it, ſo they are contracted in the ſame manner as the *Dane,* the name of the *Daven* at Middlewich, into *Danus, Don,* or *Dun.* And the latter into *Tayne, Taune, Tone, Teyne.*"* At page 183 of his Mancheſter he alſo ſays that *Avon* is the plural of *Av.* But notwithſtanding this opinion *On* was an augmentative in the Gaelic and other languages, as *One* and *Ona* are now in the Italian, and *On* in the Spaniſh. That D-avon and T-avon are contracted to *Dane, Danus, Don, Dun,* or *Tayne, Taune, Tone, Teyne,* &c. except through corruption, I cannot allow. Confuſion in the ſtatement will be found, from not attending to the *poſtfixes of the one,* (whatever theſe may mean) and the WANT of *poſtfixes in the other.*—The ſame may be ſaid of *Aun, An,* and *Un,* being contractions of *Avon.*

The Rivers KEN and CONWY.

The KEN has been derived from *Cain,* white, fair, and from *Ceann* head.—CONWY is

* Hiſtory of Mancheſter.

ſaid

ſaid in the vindication of the Celts to be formed of *Con*, what bolts ſtraitforward or runs into a point, and *Gwy*, in compoſition *Wy*. The firſt of theſe this author ſays is not in the Iriſh; but *Cwy*, a ſtream, is common to both languages. To make Iriſh of *Con*, he ſtates, Lhuyd turns it to *Cyn*, becauſe *Ceann*, Iriſh, implies a head."

The etymon of theſe names ſeems to be overlooked by everyone.—CAN, a lake or ſtream, comes from *An*, water, with *c* prefixed: *An*, *On*, and *En* are ſynonymes in the compoſition of the names of ſtreams; and *Can*, *Kan*, *Con*, or *Can* will mean the ſame. In *Dunchideock*, where the *Kan* croſſes the road from *Penhill*, there is a village named *Duns*-LAKE. The adjunct *Wy* will be proved to mean little; and hence Conwy may imply the little lake. In Devon, where there are very few lakes, *ſmall ſtreams* are ſo called. In the north of England, Wales, and Ireland, where lakes are very large and numerous, great ſtreams, collecting here and there into pools, are denominated lakes. The word *Pen* in the names of hills is not well defined: various indeed are the terms in common uſe which are entirely unknown in their etymologies.

PENDINNIS,

PENDINNIS, or PENDINANT, *Cornwall*,

Is formed from *Pen*, *Dinn*, and *Is*. *Pen* is head, *Dinn* hill, and *Is* may be a diminutive, or may imply water, and mean the ſame as *an* corrupted to *ant*. Mr. Whitaker, in the hiſtory of St. German's, renders this "*Hill Head*;" to which we muſt add a bottom.—*Pen* then, as a word deſcribing a head, is generally *round land* like a head, and means the *round hill*, and not the *hill*, *head*, or *top*. *Pendinnis* will imply the *little round hill*, or the *round water hill*.

The River PLYM, LIMSTON, PLYMTREE,

Mr. Baxter derives the *Plym* from *Pilim*, which he ſays ſtill ſignifies Volvere, to roll; & ſuppoſes that *Pilais*, of Ravennas, ſhould be written *Pilmis Iſc*, i. e. *convolvens aquæ*, denoting the impetuoſity of its current. But query? ſays Mr. Chapple.

Plym or *Pleim*, of which we have no juſt etymon, is derived from the Gaelic word *Blein* or *Plein* (or *Leim*, with *P* prefixed), which implies an *Harbour*. *B* & *P* are convertible. *N* alſo, in the names of places, becomes from corruption *M*: thus *Winple*, *Plintone*, and *Plintree*, in doomſday book, are

now written *Whimple, Plympton,* and *Plym-tree.* We muſt further obſerve that *Y* was often pronounced *ei* in the ancient Corniſh; ſo that among the rivers in this county ſcarcely one has reached us ſo correct in its orthography. Moreover from *Blein* or *Leim* evidently the ſame as *Linne* Gaelic, or *Llynn* Welſh, an eſtuary, lake, pool in a river, or ſource, we alſo derive *Limſton,* a village on the eſtuary of the Exe, and *Plymtree* or *Plin-tree,* a pariſh on the ſource of the *Clis.*

The River TAMER, formerly TAMAR, Is derived from *Tami,* Gaelic for ſtream, as has already been ſhewn, and *ar* great, or *err* border. Mr. Baxter, and others, derive it from *Tamerav,* the gentle river, though it is acknowledged to be *rapid* and even *violent* in many parts.

HAMOSE, the harbor of this river, is tranſlated the "Oozy Habitation." As we proceed we improve.—The Plym was the "rolling water." The water here is rendered the "Oozy Habitation!" But the derivation of this fine harbor is the ſame as the *Ouſe* in Yorkſhire, and comes from *ad* changed to *at, as, aus,* and *ous* water. "The *Ouſe* or *Iſe,* ſay our authors, is ſuppoſed to receive its name

name from Iſis, a denomination of Proſerpine, an infernal Goddeſs whom the ancient Britons are known to have worſhipped; and it is very uſual for ancient Heathens to conſecrate rivers as well as woods and mountains to their Deities, & call them by their names." The reader muſt not accuſe me of incredulity. The derivations of words in the names of the objects around us conſtitute the object of my enquiries; and the truth of the dedications of rivers, woods, and mountains, I leave to the mythologiſt: but where the import of appellations clearly ariſes from the features of nature, recourſe to the name of an Heathen Deity will be an oſtentatious diſplay of miſapplied reading. *Ham*, which has been ſhewn to mean border, has been derived from Ammon; and villages having been built on hams, and the word found in their names, it hath been rendered village, town, &c. *Hamoſe* and the *Tamer*, however, mean the border water. The firſt name was perhaps adopted by Athelſtan, when this river was made the boundary between the Corniſh and Saxons; for it ſeems to be a Saxon tranſlation of *Tamer*.

The River TORRIGE,

Vulgarly *Torridge*—poſſibly, ſays a writer, a compound of the Britiſh *Dwr* water, and the Saxon *Rieg*, ridge, from the ridge or military way of the Romans, being their northern road into Cornwall, which croſſed this river near little Torrington!" *Torridge*, ſays another, the etymology of the word is obvious, *Tor* ſignifying a height, and ridge a military way!" Thus, reader, are we amuſed!

The word in doomſday is written *Tori* and *Torin*, when applied to Torrington. At the compiling this book, and for many reigns after, this town was ſpelt *Toritone* and *Torintone*. From the *i* in *Tori*, and the *in* in Torin, I ſhould expect the river to be in many places *ſhallow*, in compariſon to her ſiſter ſtream the *Tamar*. It muſt be noted that a rapid or wide river is not always, perhaps not often, a deep one: and in this caſe the ending in *i* is always appropriate. In the word *Torridge* there is no diminutive ending. If you ſuppoſe Torin to be the original word from which it came, then the tranſlation is falſe; for *in* is a diminutive ending, and Torin means the ſame as *Tori* or *Torri*.

In an old Latin charter of Bideford, granted by the Granvilles, this river is written *Torichia*: in Engliſh *Torich*. We have many ſtreams ending in *ich* or *ic*, which is ſtill an Armoric diminutive. G and C were written indiſcriminately for each other; and as *g* was often uſed as *i* or *y*, *ich* or *igh* has been pronounced *ih* or *i*. But after the Norman conqueſt, if not before, many alterations in pronunciation took place: *Torig* or *Torigh*, which had been Tori, was now pronounced with *g* ſoft, *Torig* or *Torich*.* In time another *r* was inſerted, and now the word became *Torrig* or *Torrich*: laſtly *Rig* or *Rich* was nearly the pronunciation of *Ridge*, and finally *Ridge* was ſubſtituted for it.

But Torridge having for ſome centuries been the orthography of this name, and cuſtom having ſanctioned its uſe, and even ſtamped authority thereon, it will be neceſſary not only to ſhew what the *i*, *in*, *ic*, and *ig* mean, but alſo what *Tor* ſignifies. And here it muſt be noted that *a*, *o*, and *u* were uſed for each other: *Dur*, water or ſtream, would therefore be *Dar*, as at Dartmouth, or *Dor*, as at Dorcheſter. *D* and *T* were commutable, and

* Rich pronounced nearly as *Rich* wealthy.

hence

hence *Tor* was a ſynonyme of *Dur* water or ſtream; and *Tori, Torin, Torig, Torige*, or *Torrige* meant the ſhallow ſtream. We have another *Torey* or *Torry*, which falls into the Plym, near Plympton. In Yorkſhire there is a river named *Torre*; and in Somerſet the *Torr*.

BIDDIFORD,

On the Torrige, correſponds with the name of its ſtream. The etymon of this appellation is ſuppoſed to be "compounded of the Saxon *Bi* ſituated, and *Ford*, a ſhallow place in a river that may be eaſily paſſed over."—But *Bi* is juxta, and *Di* is not Saxon.

Dr. Watkin's remarks on this name "That it were well for the peace and credit of antiquarians if the etymology of proper names was always as eaſily diſcovered as in the preſent inſtance; for juſt above the bridge there is to this day a fording place through the river, and which was anciently the common paſſage for travellers; and it alſo gives name to an houſe and eſtate. But though the etymology of the name is ſo very obvious, and cannot poſſibly be miſtaken, even by a perſon of the meaneſt underſtanding, it is yet ſurpriſing

priſing that there are but very few who write it correctly. Even our lexicographers, and what is ſtill more inexcuſable, our moſt accurate topographical hiſtorians, and moſt celebrated antiquaries ſpell the word *Bidleford*,* as is the caſe in the late expenſive and very ſplendid edition of Camden's Britannia. It may perhaps be conſidered as a matter of little or no conſequence, whether a *d* is dropped or retained; but undoubtedly if accuracy is to be regarded as a primary point, even things of but trifling moment, the ſpelling of this name according to its etymology ought ſtrictly to be adhered to, and that eſpecially by writers whoſe profeſſed deſign is to correct the errors of former topographers, and to give a faithful deſcription of Great Britain."

To what Dr. W. advances I willingly ſubſcribe, nay further, the ſentiments which he has delivered ſeem to have been written for this book; but miſtakes will occur in every publication. Out of a *hundred* derivations of rivers, towns on ſtreams, of hills, &c. given by authors, I have reaſon to ſuppoſe that ſcarcely *two* have been correct. Out of *ten* therefore if I have corrected *five*, I hope not to

* Dr. Watkins ſpells this name *Bideford*.

to be harſhly cenſured for the incorrectneſs of the remainder. Mr. Gough has ſucceſsfully laboured in reforming the topography of the whole kingdom. Dr. Watkins, in his deſcription of Biddiford and other works, has ſhewn that he is a diligent writer. But I muſt proceed to give the explanation of this name.

Ad, water, is often changed to *ed* or *id*; with *b* prefixed *bed* or *bid* will mean ſtream, Thus on the *Were* are two hamlets named *Bedic;* in Suſſex a little ſtream named *Beden* or *Bedin;* in Yorkſhire another named *Bedel;* in Cardigan the river *Bidder*. *Bais* is Gaelic for water or ſtream; and as *s* and *t* were convertible, *Bait* in the names of places may be the ſame. *Ai* was pronounced as *e* according to Lhuyd, hence *bet* is ſtream; but *bet* and *bed* are the ſame, as *t* and *d* are commutable. At *Bedford*, on the Ouſe, we have a paſs over a larger ſtream than the Torrige. The firſt ſyllable *bed* cannot be derived from *bi*, nor is *i* for ſhallow appropriate in this ſtream. From what has been ſaid *bed* may mean *ſtream;* but *bed* and *bid* (as *e* and *i* were written indiſcriminately) imply the ſame. The old paſſage at *Biddiford* is allowed by Dr. Watkins to be *ſhallow*, and this word may denote the *ſhallow*

Waterford

Water Ford; but from the derivation of *Whitſtone, Whiddon,* &c. there is ſome uncertainty in this etymology: for *id* is a ſynonyme of hill as well as of ſtream—with *b* prefixed it may imply hill; and as *Biddiford* lies on a ſteep hillock above the river, this name may mean the *little hill ford.* It has been rendered by the phraſe "*By-the-Ford.*"

A celebrated author ſays that *Bedford* implies *beds and inns at the ford;* and a modern writer, to whom we are all greatly indebted for his correct deſcriptions, ſays "*bedding* in the Saxon ſignifies a bed or lodging; if any thing, he continues, is to be inferred from this etymology, it muſt be that Beddington, in Surry, was the firſt ſtage out of London on one of the great roads."

Ford, and every other adjunct to names, is referred by authors to the Saxon. But we poſſeſſed paſſages acroſs ſtreams long before the times of the Saxons, and even before the building of towns; as all the names of rivers and old towns were Gaelic, and theſe adjuncts neceſſary ones, they muſt have been employed at the time of firſt naming ſtreams, and before the arrival of the Saxons. Thus *foras* is

Gaelic for the ford of a river. In Iriſh ſyllables were often multiplied by the inſertion of *dh*. Hence *foras* became *fordhas*, from which is derived our word *ford*.

BRANFORD, Devon,

In doomſday Branford-ſpeke, or Eſpeac, is written *Bran-for-tune*. *For*, in this name, was evidently derived from *foras*. "The Speke family poſſeſſing the greateſt part of the pariſh, added their name thereto," ſays Sir Wm. Pole. *Branford* (where the river runs *ſlowly*) is rendered the *ſwift* rapid ford, from BRAN a *crow*! Of miſtaken names for water, ſtream, &c. the catalogue is innumerable! *Upton Pine* was formerly named *Branford Pine*, and this joins *Branford Speke*. A round hill within theſe pariſhes includes a part of each diſtrict. *Pine*, the ſame as *Pen*, means a round hill; *Peac* was adopted as a ſynonyme of *Pine*; and theſe words diſtinguiſh the two diviſions of Branford. The Saxons wrote *Branford-ſpeac*, *Branford-es-peac*; the *es* or *s* was their genitive ſingular ending, which added to *Peac*, compoſes the name *Eſpeake*, *Speake*, or *Speke*; and hence theſe pariſhes gave names to the families of Speke and Pine, inſtead of their giving appellations

pellations to the pariſhes. This obſervation will apply to pariſhes and families in general. *Bran* is derived as in the introduction, and may imply *ſtream*.

The following places like *Biddiford*, explained by phraſes, have expoſitions of their names omitted.

LIMERICK

Is ſtated by Gen. Vallancy to be a corruption of *Laimhri-oic*, which he renders "on the water edge." But *Leim* or *Lim* is Gaelic for *harbour*, *er* is *great* or *border*, and *ick*, the root of *Fich*, *Vich*, and *Wich*, is country, territory, village, or caſtle. Limerick will conſequently imply the *great harbour*, *fortreſs*, or *town*; and the name alludes peculiarly to the iſland and territory on which this fortified town is ſituated.

ARDEVERA-MEUR and Ardevera-vian.

Ardevera is ſeperated by Mr. Whitaker, in his hiſtory of St. German's, into *ar* and *devra*, which he renders (the houſes) *upon the haven*. "Nor let, ſays he, ignorance triumph in ſuppoſition at hearing theſe derivations, fancy another etymologiſt would fabricate another

derivation, and ſo ſmile at the impotence of reaſoning in producing etymons for arguments: ignorance, like blindneſs, is very apt to apprehend pitfalls in the plaineſt ground and in the conceitedneſs of fear, to prevent all poſſibility of conviction. But Leland himſelf ſpeaks in this very manner of "both houſes." "Petite's principal houſe was at *Ardeuera-vian*, in Falmouth haven, by the PENINSULA, called ARDEUERA-MEUR." *Vian*, according to Mr. W. implying *little*, and *meur* great.

Leland calls *Ardeverameur* a PENINSULA; and in Mr. Whitaker's tranſlation "*upon the haven*"* we have a phraſe which omits the whole name! The *houſes* belong not to it. In dividing compound words the ſyllables are often miſtaken, and in *old* Gaelic denominations, adjectives generally follow their ſubſtantives. One rock therefore upon which our etymologiſts have loſt themſelves, in rendering ſuch names, is their reverſing this order. The word *ar*, inſtead of being conſidered an adjective, is here rendered *upon*; but the firſt ſyllable is generally a ſubſtantive: *Ard* then

* Dr. Pryce tranſlates this word upon the *lap*, *boſom*, or *lake*.—Mr. W. has ſubſtituted *haven* for *lake*.

in

is the firſt part of this compound term; but its particular meaning in this name, with that of the remainder of the word, I leave to perſons acquainted with the features of the place.

The OCKMEN, and OCKHAMTON.

The river is derived in the firſt ſyllable by authors from *oſc* water, *awch* vigour, and from ſeveral other terms; but of *men* we have no explanation. *Ockhamton* in doomſday is written *Och-men-tune*; *e* and *i* were always in old MSS employed indiſcriminately.—*Oiche*, *och*, *ock*, or *oc* is water; *min* or *men*, little, ſmall; and *ochmen* implies the little ſtream. In this word the initial of tune is taken to form the *ochmin* falſely *ochment*.—The town is commonly called *Ock-in-ton*, from *oc* water, and *in* a diminutive or plural ending; or from *in* a diſtrict or border. It is alſo written OAK-*hamp-ton* corruptly for *Ock-ham-ton*, in which *ham* ſeems to be a Saxon tranſlation of *in*, border, or diſtrict.—The name implies the *water border town*.

The CREEDY, CREDITON, and KIRTON.

"A fanciful etymologiſt, ſays Mr. Polwhele, tells us that *Creedy* comes from *Crydy*, the trembling or dimpling water; or from *Crwydr* wandering.

wandering. But the true name of the vale of *Crediton*, Mr. P. ſtates, and of the river, is Eden. The town *Caer Eden*, or *Caſtrum apud Eden*, by abreviation of ſpeech *Creden* and *Creden Town*"—that is CAER *Eden* TOWN.

" Crediton ſeu Kirton, ſays Skinner in his Etymologicon, vel. q. d. A. S. *Craet Tun*, i. e. *Terra Carrorum*"—the land of carts! The truſtees of the Exeter turnpikes muſt feel peculiarly the propriety of this etymon.——From Ir or Ire Land, with *Sg* or *Sc* prefixed, and this changed to *Sh*, comes *Shire* a diviſion of land.—*C* is ſaid to imply incloſure; and *Cir* may be land incloſed. The ancients worſhipped within circles of ſtones; and the *Cir* or encloſure being a circle, *Ciorc* or *Circ*, a particular name, or contraction of the name for a circle, and *Cir* an incloſure, have been uſed as ſynonymes of our word church, in various town's names.—Hence Kirton may imply the Church Land or Town.—*Creedy* is ſhewn in page 32, to imply the little ſtream.

REW, or REU, Devon—the River REY, &c.

Rew in doomſday is written *Revve*. It is ſaid in the Hiſtory of Devon to be derived " from *Row*, being ſo much longer than it is wide."

wide." Rew, it is alſo ſtated, means "the land of inheritance, from *eru*, an *acre*, *eſtate*, or land of inheritance." Chaucer is quoted in a note to corroborate the above, who mentions "All in a *Row* on a [illegible]—one after another in order." But *Rew*, *Raw*, it is further ſtated, is a *row of houſes*, and uſed for a village in the north."

Reu, from *av* changed to *ev* and *eu* water, with *r* prefixed may imply ſtream. Thus we have the *Rue*, a ſtream in Montgomeryſhire. The *Culm* divides this pariſh into two parts, and the *Exe* runs by it. The initial *s* being a ſervile only, as proved in the *Sid*, was often omitted. *Sruth*, a ſtream, would therefore become *Ruth*, which was pronounced *Ruh* or *Reu*. Hence *Reu*, *Rev*, and *Riv*, in the compoſition of names, meant ſtream; and *River*, if *er* mean *great*, will imply *great ſtream*.—*U* was often changed to and pronounced as *i* or *y*; and hence the *Rey*, in Wiltſhire, will mean ſtream.

It is ſtated by Mr. Polwhele that *Rew* and *Raw* are uſed for village in the north. They are uſed for the ſame in eaſtern countries; and we ſhall find that names originally given

to

to ſtreams, became thoſe of the lands around, and finally of the villages upon them.—Hence *Rew* may imply vil[illegible]ge. In *Rath* the *t* may be ſilent, and [illegible]unced *Rah*. This word is a Gaelic [illegible] for village. It may be changed t[illegible] *h*, and is perhaps the word from whence *Rew* is derived.

The former part of Mr. Polwhele's derivation is taken from a MS of the derivations of Devonſhire pariſhes, compiled a few years ſince by ſome eminent antiquaries of the county of Devon. Theſe gentlemen not only miſled our hiſtorian,* but many other perſons, and the MS of their explanations was conſidered as exceedingly curious and valuable. In the etymologies of the names of places in this kingdom, nothing but great application will enable us to reſcue from time the ancient uſes of words, and the reaſons of their firſt impoſitions. Many attempts have been made towards this; but authors have not comprehended the ſyſtem of the ancients in giving names. Labouring under this diſadvantage they have unfortunately been te-

* When I quote from Mr. P. the reader muſt generally underſtand that it is what he hath extracted from this MS.

nacious

nacious of their opinions, and in rendering names have adopted words of correſponding ſounds from whatever language they could collect them; often, very often too, without any fidelity to exactneſs, and ſtill more frequently without any conformity to deſign. Hence have they led us into difficulties which diſcrimination will ſcarcely extricate for a conſiderable time.

RUAN LANYHORN, in Cornwall,

Implies, ſays Mr. Whitaker, "*St.* Rumon's *church at the angle.*" But if *y* be not a diminutive ending in Lanyhorn, I ſhould render this the *little village* (*or little ſtream*) *corner land.*

St. Rumon for Ruan, is not unlike St. Morwenna for Morewinstow. We have a river named *Rue*, mentioned in the laſt article—*Ruan* is the name of a little ſtream which runs into *Polruan creek*, and is an appropriate one for that in *Ruan* pariſh. *Ruan* major, a diſtrict in Cornwall, Dr. Pryce interprets the great river, and *Ruan* minor the leſs river; but *Ruan* may be derived from *ru* a ſtream, and *an* a diminutive; or as hereafter mentioned. The letter *c* or *k* in the Iriſh was

often changed to *h* in the Corniſh or Welſh. Hence from *corn* a corner is *Horn* derived; and this pariſh lies in a corner on the Fal.—There are many projections of land on this ſtream, and to diſtinguiſh this from others, it is named *Ruan little land corner;* or *Ruan little lake corner,* from *Lann* land, or *Lon* or *Lan* a lake or ſtream, *y* a diminutive, and *Horn* corner. But *Reu* or *Ru* implying village, *Ruan,* if not derived from its little ſtream, may mean the little village.

Of the PRINCIPAL HOUSES in St. GERMANS, Cornwall.

"I have now levelled to the ground, ſays Mr. Whitaker, in his hiſtory of St. Germans cathedral, that ſtrange gothic line of frontier which the hand of Dr. Borlaſe had thrown up againſt the inroads of chriſtianity, and for the defence of Druidiſm as the excluſive Heathenſm of Cornwall. The Corniſh became chriſtians with the other Britons of the North and Weſt; were with others polluted by that "deteſtable hereſy" of Arianiſm, but cured by the vigorous operations of the council of Nice; were afterwards, with others, infected by the proud folly of Pelagianiſm, yet again cured by the coming and by the preaching of Germanus.

Germanus. He went to Wales; he came into Cornwall to compleat his work; he went to King Benli, in Wales; and he came to King Theodore or Tewder, probably in Cornwall, then reſiding at a royal houſe aſſuredly in the preſent pariſh of St. Germans. Yet where in the pariſh was that houſe? This is impoſſible to point out with any greater ſhare of certainty than what reſults from a mere analyſis of names, and throws a quivering ſort of morning-twilight over the enquiry. This, however, will be ſufficient for the purpoſe, if we can proſecute our enquiry under the clouds that hang over it with any critical inſight into the Corniſh language.—The ignorance indeed that prevails among the preſent inhabitants of Cornwall, concerning the language of their anceſtors, concerning the ſignification of the local names which meet them at every turn, is wonderful in itſelf; but it appears peculiarly wonderful if ever vanity happens to *irradiate* the ignorance, and ſo exhibit it more conſpicuous to the world "the blackneſs of darkneſs" then being ſtrikingly diſplayed by the paſſing claſh of a meteor. Thus a gentleman, even literary, refined, and lively, obſerving lately a

field of his that was vulgarly known by the appellation of the Bowling-Green, to be denominated in his legal papers *Parc Behan* (or little field) in Corniſh, was ſtruck with the ſuppoſed magnificence of the title, ridiculouſly reſolved to build a houſe upon it, for the ſake of this, and then more ridiculouſly gave this houſe the mere Engliſh appellation of Behan Parc. A *Bowling Green*, of Cornwall, was dilated & expanded by the force of folly into a Park of England! Such are the monſters produced by IGNORANCE when it is impregnated by VANITY! *But as* WE *are ſecure from* THIS, *ſo are* WE *in no danger from* THAT."

With theſe very extraordinary declarations let us examine how this learned writer has performed his undertaking.

BEHAN PARC.

Parc in Gaelic is the ſame as Park in Engliſh, and *vean* or *vian* in Corniſh, or *Fion* in the Gaelic is old or little. Hence *Parc Behan* may mean the old park or the little park, as well as the little field.

Mr. W. after reprehending the gentleman who incontinently changed *Parc Behan* to

Behan

Bohan Pare, interprets the names of the *greater* houſes in St. Germans to find the reſidence before referred to. He ſtates them to be *Hendra*, *Cutcrew*, *Treſtelly*, *Polemartin*, *Molineck*, *Coldrinneck*, *Bake*, *Cudden Beak*, and *Catch-french*.

HENDRA,

Mr. W. and Dr. Pryce ſuppoſe to come from *Hen* old, and *Dra* an houſe; and the former ſays that the name carries antiquity, but beſpeaks no royalty. Of the meaning of *Hen* as an hill, and its ſignification as an adjective, the reader will find in Camden. But writers ſeem to have forgotten that the adjective follows the ſubſtantive in *old* names. We have many ancient ſettlements with the prænomen *Hen*. Thus if *Hen* is old, *Henham* muſt be *old border*; Hennock *old hill*; *Henny*, a little hill in Devon, *little old*; *Henley in Arden*, *the old water land in the wood land*.*—The reader will acknowledge that *old* houſe could not be the *moſt early* name of

* I muſt ſtate that *Arden* is by Mr. W. tranſlated Woodland; and proofs are adduced in his Manchester to confirm the tranſlation. Mr. Baxter and Mr. Macpherſon however render this by *hill* and *high hill*; but I conceive that this term may imply the *hill country*, from *Ard* an height, and *en* land.

this

this dwelling, and from what has been mentioned he may ſuſpect that it is a modern appellation. *Hen*, in old Gaelic names, is frequently derived from water or from hill; thus *Henley* on the Tames means not as uſually rendered, but the ſtream town or territory; and is derived from *an* or *en* water, which laſt though written *en* was always pronounced *hen*: but as *u* and *n* are convertible, *hen* may be derived from *eu* or *eu* an hill. Thus we have *Hennock*, in Devon, which implies hill land. I know not the ſituation of *Hendra*, but if it lie on a ſtream, I ſhould render it the ſtream houſe; if on an hill, the hill habitation.

CUTCREW

"Is derived by Mr. W. from *Cuit* Corniſh, being a wood, *Crow*, Corniſh, being the ſame word with *Crowyn*, *Crywyn*, *Crewynn*, Welſh, a kennel or hut, and with *Crue*, Engliſh, a rack in a farm-yard."

In books of local deſcription it will be found that *d* and *t* were often written for each other; *Chudcombe* is written *Chidcombe* and *Chitcombe*: *Cud* and *Cut* are therefore the ſame in names of places. When the country

was

was one continued foreſt, the woods could not be conſidered as a permanently leading feature by which the earth was to be named The hills, vallies, plains, lakes, and rivers only, were to remain as long as time exiſted. As the country was cleared of its woods, and ſettled with inhabitants, the face of the earth preſented itſelf, and diſtricts were then named from their principal features. We ought not therefore to ſuppoſe, without ſome particular evidence, that the etymon of the old name of a place is to be derived from the wood which accidentally grew upon it.*

In

* KILKENNY, Ireland.

Of this place various derivations have been given. Mr. *Ledwich*, whoſe interpretation is accounted the true one, derives it from "Coile or *Kyle-Ken-ui—the wooded head or hill near the river.*"

Of deriving places from woods which in uninhabited times may have covered our territories, I have always diſapproved: the whole land was once a foreſt; & if towns had been named from woods, the ſynonymes of foreſt would have been found in every denomination. But the leading features of the land itſelf, and of its ſtreams are found chiefly employed in this office. Moreover the ending in *y* denotes that Kenny is a *diminutive noun*; and we have proved that this letter in the endings of names implies neither water nor river.

On the above derivation of *Kilkenny*, *Mr. O'Connor* ſays, "Never was etymology put more to the rack, yet no torture can

In examining the names of the before-mentioned houſes, to find whether either implied a royal habitation, Mr. W. hints that we ſhould ſearch all the Britiſh dialects, to reach the radical idea of the appellation.—But if he had conſidered that the *proper* names of rivers, hills, vallies, plains, &c. gave denomination to nearly all the ſettlements; that the greater part of theſe names were formed from *one* language to give appellations to the *particular* features of nature only; and that theſe were not to be found

can wring from it the intelligence required." He ſtates on the contrary, that the Iriſh name is *Cill Channigh*, and that it literally means the *Cell or Oratory of Canneath*, the firſt Abbot of *Achoba*, in the ſixth century."

Lann being church, a great number of villages in Wales adopted this prefix. In the ſame manner was *Cill* admitted as a prefix to the names of pariſhes in Ireland. But if this were a prefix, then Kenny was originally the name of this place.

I know of few inſtances where men gave denominations to towns in this country, but I find names of places taken by men every where. The parish or town of *Ken*, in Devon, is on the river *Ken*; *Kennett*, in Wilts, takes its name from its ſtream, and has a diminutive ending; and *Kenny*, in *Kilkenny*, takes its appellation from the little ſtream near the *church* which paſſes into the Nore: near this ſmall ſtream which forms *little lakes*, is the church of *Kilkenny* or *Killkenny*, and the name certainly implies *the church on the little lake*.

in

in dictionaries, nor were ever employed as *common* words in the languages of the world, he would have ſeen reaſon for not reſting *ſolely* on ſuch mode of enquiry. He would beſide theſe have compared the names of hills, vallies, rivers, and plains, with the ſettlements upon them, would have hereby diſcovered the roots of his proper names, and have eſtabliſhed reaſons for their formation from examples *not to be conteſted.*

We find in the Gaelic *Codadh* a mountain. *Cudh, Cuth, Cuit* an *head,* and ſynonymes of *Ceann* ; the *dh* and *th* were often changed to *d* and *t*: hence *Cut* and *Cud* would mean *head ;* and as *Pen* and *Ceann* are head or hill, ſo *Cud* and *Cut* would be the ſame. Thus, among many examples which might be ſelected, we have in Somerſet *Cudworth,* ſituated on a ſmall eminence under the high ridge of *Chillington Down. Worth* in this name is a Gaelic adjunct, and means *border. Cud* is derived from *Aithe* changed to *ait, at, ad, ud.* In Somerſet there is a pariſh named *Cutcombe ;* the village belonging to it lies in a combe called *Water-Combe,* being bounded by lofty eminences in the North and South ;

and on the Weſt, Dunkerry lies partly in this pariſh. The old name of Cutcombe was in Doomſday *Ude-come*; it might be naturally rendered *Hill-combe*; but *ud* may be a variation of *ad* water, and in this caſe will mean *Water-combe*.

From what has been ſaid *Cut* and *Cud* may be applied to *water* or *hill* in the names of places rather than to *wood*. *Crew* may be derived from *Cro* a *cot*.

TRESKELLY

Mr. W. ſays is a name of *grander* import. "It means the *Grove-Houſe*; and the intermediate letter being only interpolated euphoniæ gratiâ occaſionally."

Kelli, Corniſh for grove, is I ſuppoſe a diminutive of *Coill* a wood. Allowing *tres* to mean habitation, the derivation of *Kelly* is uncertain. *El* and *il*, from *a* an hill, pronounced *au*, and changed to *al*, *el*, and *il*, is the root of hill; with *k* prefixed it will be *Kel*, the diminutive is *Kelly*. Thus we have *Kel*, or *Kil mar* or *mor-Rock*, Cornwall, a high hill near Liſkeard, which has great rocks upon it, and which implies the *great hill rock*.

On

On the other hand *el* may come from *av* water, changed to *au*, *al*, and *el*. We have the river *Kelyn*, in Merionethſhire, which is proved in the Torrige to be a diminutive noun of the ſame import as *Kelly*. Having ſtated this, I ſhall leave the reader, who knows the ſituation, to adopt what he conceives moſt applicable to the features of the place.

POLEMARTIN, MARTOCK, Somerſet, &c.

The firſt Mr. Whitaker ſtates to be merely the *ſtanding water*. After I have carefully ſearched for an appropriate explanation of a word in vain, I conſider it one of thoſe which were contrived by the firſt inhabitants for *proper* names. I then enquire the ſituation of the place, and ſearch for the root of its name. The event often produces a grave ſtory. Mr. W. derives *Polemartin* from *Pol* the Corniſh for *Pool*, which he ſays "requireth the union of *Merthyn* Armoric for ſtagnating the water!" The reader will conſult the author who gives a copious explanation. From my view of the map of Cornwall, a ſmall tributary ſtream riſes in this diſtrict; *Pol* will therefore mean the head: *Mar* in *Martin* is derived from *av* water, changed to *au* and *ar*, as in the river *Arrow*; with *m* prefixed it will

become *Mar*, as in the names of ſeveral towns on ſtreams named *Marton*.

In Mr. Collinſon's Somerſet the pariſhes are well deſcribed, and *Martock* is conſidered as implying Market-Oak. *Mart* is ſaid to be an abbreviation of market, and *ock* to come from *ac*, the Saxon for an *oak*. But *Martock* is derived from *mar* water, and *toic* land.—The pariſh lies in a corner between the rivers Parrott and Yeo.

Polemartin then comes from *pol* head, *mar* water, and *tin* or *tain* country. Thus alſo *Martin-hou*, in Devon, on the coaſt of the north ſea, means the *ſea, or water, territory, hill.*

MOLLINIEK, the River MOLE, MOLTON, &c.

"Speaks, ſays Mr. W. *only its only relation to a mill!* *Melyn* Welch, *Melin* Corniſh, *Melin, Meil, Mul, Muilean*, Iriſh, importing a mill, and being only the echoes of the Latin *Mola, Molendinum*, with the termination of the poſſeſſive adjective, the ſame in Britiſh as in Latin, and ſhewing itſelf equally in Britannicus and Brethonek (Corniſh) for Britiſh."

But

But this explanation agrees not with Dr. Pryce's, who renders Molliniek the place of goldfinches!

I ſhall omit my objections to adjectives giving *names* to the features of nature. *Mor* may be derived the ſame as *Mar* in the laſt article. The *r* changed to *l* was common.—Thus may the river *Mole* be derived, and the towns and diſtricts of *Molland, Molton, Moliton, Mollington*, &c. *Mol* then is ſtream, *Mollin* little ſtream; *Ick* is the ſame as in *Lodenick* and *Limerick*, or as *Ic* in *Iſis*; and *Molliniek* implies the little ſtream, diſtrict, village, or houſe.

COLDRINNICK

"Is deſcriptive ſolely of the land on which it lay, ſays Mr. W. as *Col* (C) is a ridge or neck of a hill, *Rhyn* (W) a mountain, a cape, promontory: *Run* (Erſe) the ſame; *Rhyn* (C) a hill, *Rhynen, Runen* (C) a hillock, *Rinn* (I) a peninſula or neck of land, or (which is evidently the primary idea) the point. *Col Rinneach* therefore refers to that ſharp-pointed ridge of an hill on which *Coldrinneck* originally ſtood, &c."

But

But the above mark not literally the meaning of *Coldrinneck*. *Coll* is head or hill, *Rinn* is point or ridge, and *Ick* is territory, village, or houſe.

BAKE

Mr. W. ſuppoſes to mean *little*, although he accounts this one of the "*greater houſes*." Authors frequently have ſuppoſed that the firſt inhabitants named things by qualities, which are the names of nothing in the univerſe! *Bocan* or *Bochan* is cottage, i. e. *little houſe*, evidently derived from *Boc* or *Buch* an houſe, and the diminutive *an*: *Boch*, *Bach*, or *Bake* may therefore imply *the houſe*: the next article, perhaps, the *little hill*, or *head land houſe*.

CUDDEN BEAK.

"Mr. W. in page 112 of vol. 2, ſpeaking of Mr. Morgan, a Welſh gentleman of amiable character, & greatly reſpected memory, ſays, "That he employed the knowledge of his native language frequently in decyphering the local names around him; and was actually deemed, *by thoſe who could not judge*, to be very happy in his explanations, yet was in fact moſt *fantaſtically* wrong reſolving *Cudden*

den Beak, for inſtance, into *Cudin* (W) a lock of hair or wool, and *Bach* (W) little, yet interpreting it a little promontory, as if a promontory could poſſibly be expreſſed in any language by a lock of hair. For that reaſon, continues Mr. W. I have taken ſo large a compaſs at examination before, and for that reaſon I ſhall enlarge a little more now, willing to chaſe away *ſuch impertinence for ever* from the minds of my cotemporaries of Cornwall."*

Cudden

* Mr. ANDREW BRICE.

In deſcribing the church of St. Columb, Mr. W. has the following note:—"To thoſe who love to mark the aberrations of the human mind, it muſt be amuſing to obſerve Hal's calling the ſaint by the name of Columbanus, in oppoſition to Camden's correction of himſelf; becauſe now no ſuch perſon as "Sancta Columba," or "no ſuch book extant" as this life of the ſaint that "I can hear of." Yet in page 67 he owns himſelf to be informed that the patron of this church is "Sancta Columba." But after all appears, the publiſher, one Brice, a printer, at Truro, afterwards a printer, bookſeller, and author, at Exeter, with all that pertneſs which uneducated abilities are ſure to give, with all that ignorance of reaſoning which unaſſiſted nature is equally ſure to ſupply, and with all that tendency to ſcepticiſm to which ſuch ignorance, ſuch pertneſs are equally ſure to gravitate as to their natural center, ſneering at both, yet finally coming back to the wrong."

For Mr. Brice's diſbelief of the exiſtence of Sancta Columba I offer no apology; but to the charges of ignorance, uneducated

Cudden Beak Mr. W. ſays implies a wooded point of land. As I have in other articles declared war againſt wood being ſo *generally* introduced into derivations of names, ſo to preſerve my conſiſtency muſt the reader expect in this article my endeavours to ſhew, that Cudden implies neither a lock of hair, or

cated abilities, and unaſſiſted nature, Mr. B's. Topographical Dictionary will ſhew Mr. W's. great miſtakes. This work, like all others of its kind, and like all our *local* hiſtories, has many faults; but it is the beſt, moſt comprehenſive, and even the moſt learned gazetteer in the Engliſh language. It proves that Mr. B. was a man of learning, and ſhews his judgment in ſelection, arrangement, and abridgment of articles. To its purchaſers it recommended itſelf for honeſtly containing as much letter-preſs and as much uſeful information for 5os. as we can now procure for twenty times its price in modern publications. Calculating on his receipts from ſubſcribers, and from ſuppoſed returns for copies ſent to a London bookſeller, who cheated him, and became a bankrupt—he ſunk money by the publication. "*One conſolation however remained (which is nearly his own expreſſion to the writer of this article juſt before his death)—He lived to ſee his book grow in public eſtimation, and increaſe in price.*"

Mr. Brice is underſtood to have been educated for a diſſenting miniſter, but to have choſen the trade of a printer. He was a very ingenious man in his profeſſion, and is ſuppoſed to have been well acquainted with the Latin, and to have underſtood the Greek and ſome other languages.—The late Mr. Jackſon, of Exeter, left a copy of Mr. Brice's work, in which he has inſerted ſome thouſands of MS obſervations.

wood,

wood.—"*Coat,* (C) ſays this learned writer, is timber or wood; *Coed,* (W) wood, timber, or trees; *Codden,* (W) a tree; *Cudon,* (C) *Cudon, Cudden* (W) a wood dove, properly and preciſely (as appears by analogy) *any thing* belonging to a wood, &c." Thus far I quote.—*Bec,* a point, is traced through various channels.

I have uniformly referred to the original language in which names were given for the explanation of terms. In the Gaelic *Cudh, Cud,* or *Cuit* is head or hill: *En* is a diminutive, and *Cudden Beak* may imply the *little hill point,* or *houſe,* or the *little head point,* or *houſe;* but as *en* in compound words often implies land, this term may be reſolved into *head-land point,* or *houſe.* Mr. W. himſelf remarks that we have an "HEAD-*land,*" (which notwithſtanding this unlucky expreſſion he labours to prove a WOOD-*land*), "a little to the eaſt of St. Michael's Mount, named *Cudden Point.*"—*Cudden* Mr. W. tranſlates *wood-land,* and that too where no wood perhaps ever grew! The head-land here referred to is the eaſternmoſt point of Mount's Bay; it is a great projection of land, with a narrow ſlip

protruding itſelf beyond the reſt. Head. *land point* is a very appropriate term, but Wood-*land point* cannot be ſo. Moreover *Cambeck* mentioned in another page means not *crooked* point, for this would be no diſtinguiſhing term. *Cam* means the ſea or water, and it derived from *amh*, with *c* prefixed as in the river *Cam*.

Mr. W. in theſe examples furniſhes us with derivations from ſome French authors; but however ingenious theſe may be deemed, they ſeem not to flow ſo much from deſign as from fancy.

CATCH FRENCH

Mr. W. ſuppoſes to be derived from *Keage* or *Cadge*, a houſe. In Devon this word is ſometimes uſed for houſe, and comes from *Cai*, formerly perhaps written *Caighe*: but *French* in this caſe will be derived, not from whence Mr. W. imagines, but from the Gaelic word *Francach* french: thus from *Corach* was derived *Cork*; and from *Eborac* or *Euorae* York. *Francach* is ſometimes added, ſays Lhuyd, to appellatives when things are extraordinary large: as *Caoileach Frangach*, a turkey. i. e. a *French cock*. *Luch francach* (i. e. French

French mouſe) a *rat.* *Cnu fhrancach* a French gual, or wallnut. *Attin Fhrancach* great furſe. Hence if *Catch* is houſe, *Catch French* is plainly *great houſe;* and all that this learned writer has attempted to ſhew. That *French* means *Prince*, that a Prince reſided at St. Germans, and that *Catch French* was the royal houſe, ſeems to be a fabric memorable only for fancy.

Other MISTAKES
In derivations, ſuppoſed to have been adopted from *celebrated names, &c.*

LOSTWITHIEL, in Cornwall,

Is derived from *lios*, an habitation, palace, court, &c. and from *aithe* or *uithe* hill, and *el* a diminutive; or from *ad*, water, changed to *ed, id, ith*, &c. as in the little river *Gwithel*, in Radnorſhire.

After ſtating that *Penkennek* means the hill of the king, but which implies perhaps the little lake hill, or the lake territory or village hill, Mr. Whitaker ſays the name of Loſtwithiel itſelf points out the very founder of the houſe upon the hill foot, as it ſignifies *Withiel's palace.* *Withiel* he ſuppoſes to

have been the firſt Earl of Cornwall! But *Withiel* or *Withel* is the name of two places in Cornwall, of one in Hertfordſhire, of another in Somerſet, and of the river before mentioned. We have too, *Witham* on the hill, and ſeveral other ſettlements with the prænomen *with*, denoting they are on eminences or named from their contiguity to them; & yet ſome places beginning with *With*, may have borrowed their appellations from water, as above ſtated. Hence the reader will perceive the neceſſity of comparing old names with the places they repreſent. As to the denomination *Withel* being derived from a Prince, its probability will be found to have originated in miſtake.

PONC, PONT, or POINT CROSS.

Withiel is then conſidered by Mr. Whitaker an Earl of Cornwall, and the very firſt.—"*Pontius* he ſays appears by the ſame ſort of evidence, to have been another Earl, and probably the ſecond. At the mouth of the Loſtwithiel river, and for a ſignature of Loſtwithiel's juriſdiction over it, is what is traditionally denominated *Pontius Croſs:* being a croſs upon the left hand rock defining the limits

mits of the town's juriſdiction, and ſtanding the bound of the town's annual excurſion by water towards the ſea. It is plainly therefore the ſignature of an authority over this tide river, conceded by ſome Earl, who lived in the palace here, and who favoured the town at its ſide. The Roman name of Pontius is derived from the Britiſh period of our hiſtory, like that of Ambroſius Aurelianus in the beginning of the ſixth century, and that of Eugenius Cæſarius, near the middle of the tenth. The name Pontius continued even as a family appellation in the iſland down to the middle ages; Thomas Pontius being abbot of Canterbury in the 14th century, and Nicholas Pontius a member of Merton College, Oxford, at the beginning of the 15th. Thus a Roman name, which has juſtly conſigned to infamy in the commencing annals of our religion, appears to have been born even by the true profeſſors of chriſtianity in England and in Cornwall many ages after the departure of the Romans from our Iſle. The name, however, was anglicized into *Poncy*, and frenchified into *Ponce*;* the former a name not abſolutely unfamiliar to our

* The ſequel will ſhew the contrary.

ears

ears at preſent in *Pouncey*; and the latter in the days of Leland applied with a vulgar corruption to our croſs at the mouth of Loſtwithiel river. "*The very* POINT *of land at the eaſt ſide of the mouth of this haven,*" ſays Leland, is "caulid PONTUS *Croſſe*,† vulgo *Paunch Croſſe.*" Such continues Mr. W. were plainly two of Cornwall's Britiſh Earls, both unknown to the pretended enumerators of thoſe Earls, and the only Earls that are known by name; Condor and Cadoc, or any other mentioned by moderns, being all nonentities of fable: and it comes from thoſe or other Earls reſiding in their palaces of Penkenek or Reſtormel, that Loſtwithiel has now the honor of being the metropolis of Cornwall, &c."

After all, *Ponc* (here pronounced *Ponce*) and *Pont*, according to Shaw and Lhuyd, are old Gaelic words for *Point*; and the croſs by Leland, and even Mr. W's. own account, is ſituated at "the very point of land at the eaſt ſide of the mouth of this haven." Hence *Ponc* or *Pont Croſs*, is *the Croſs at the Point*; and Withel and Pontius muſt rank with Condor and Cadoc.

† Mr. W. alters this to *Pontius Croſs*.

MENHENNET,

MENHENNET, MONA, MENAI, MENAVIA the MENAPII, MENABILLY, &c.

Mr. Whitaker ſays that *Menhennet* implies the *mountain of the elder!*. The reader will find the author's authorities in vol. 2, pages 35 and 36. From *aon* or *en*, country or land, with the prefix *m*, the word *men*, in the compoſition of names, is often derived; and when drawn from this root it means land only. Thus the Menapii of the low lands of Belgium were dwellers on water land, or on rivers, from *men*, *land*, and *av* or *ap* water. Of this name no juſt etymon has been given; but it is evident from the nature of their country that *men* could not mean hill: on the contrary, *men*, if derived from *a* changed to *au*, *eu*, and *en*, will imply hill. Thus Menabilly, in Cornwall, may be derived from *men*, an hill or head; and (as *u*, *v*, and *b* are convertible) the diminutive of *uil*, *vil*, or *bil*, which is *Billy*, will imply *little corner*.

This word *men* is no where found in dictionaries, except in the vocabulary of Dr. Pryce. It is there ſtated to mean "a *head* or *hill*; as *Menwinneck*, the head of the marſhes; *Menabilly*, the *colt's* hill!" When the Doctor wrote

wrote he had not conſidered the Menapii of the Netherlands, nor perhaps *Menhennet*.

"Tacitus (de Moribus Germ.) takes notice, ſays Bryant, in his Mythology, that the *Suevi* worſhipped Iſis; and mentions that the chief object of their rites was an ark or ſhip; Signum in Modum liburnæ figuratum; which was held in great reverence. The like myſteries, according to Artimedorus, prevailed in one of the Britiſh iſlands; in which he ſays that the worſhip of Damater was carried on with the ſame rites as in Samothracia (Strabo, lib. 4.) I make no doubt but that his hiſtory was true, and that the arkite rites prevailed in many parts of Britain; eſpecially in the iſle of Mona, where in after times was the chief ſeat of the Sarronides or Druids. *Monai* ſignifies Inſula Selenitis vel Arkitis. It was ſometimes expreſſed *Menai*; as is evident from the Frith between the iſland and the main land, being ſtiled *Aber Menai* at this day.—Aber Menai ſignifies fretum Inſulæ dei Luni; which iſland undoubtedly had this name from its rites."

Religion

Religion and the Deities are ſometimes introduced to ſuperſede reſearch; but according to the advice of Horace

Nec Deus, interſit, niſi dignus Vindice Nodus Inciderit.—I give another derivation—but firſt ſhall quote Camden's opinion on the word *Meneu:*

"As to the ancient name of St. David's, there is not far from it a place at this day called *Melin Meneu;* wherein is preſerved the old denomination *(Menavia).* But the original ſignification of the word *Meneu* is now loſt, and perhaps not to be retrieved.—However I would recommend to the curious in Ireland and Scotland, (where names of places agree much with thoſe in Wales) to conſider whether they may not ſignify a frith or narrow ſea."

In Vallancey's tracts there is a number by Mr. Beauford on the ancient topography of the Iſland, in which the Menapii are ſaid evidently to come from Mene-ui-poii; and that it means the *narrow diſtrict* or country.

By deſire of a Welſh gentleman I have attempted another derivation. Let the word

Menavia come from *men*, and imply an *head* or *promontory*; and *amh* or *av* the ſea or water; and *Menavia* will mean the *ſea* or *water head-land*. Let *Menau*, the ſtrait between Angleſey and the land, be derived from the ſame word, *men* and *au* water, and it will imply the *head-land water*. The Menavii or Menapii will in this caſe imply *dwellers at the head-land of the ſea or water*.

But *aon*, *en*, or *on* is alſo land: and *fonn*, *vonn*, *monn*, and *men* are the ſame; and *men* meant not in all names head-land, but land only. Menabilly and ſome other places were head-lands: Menhennet not. The firſt being head-lands, it was concluded that *men* was generally ſo; and hence may be perceived the neceſſity of attending to the roots of words.

I have ſaid that *a* is ſometimes a contraction of *an*; and from hence we find that *Mona* or *Manna*, as in Ravennas, is the *little* or *water land*. *Menav* means the *ſea* or *water land*, or the *ſea coaſt*. *Menavia*, if *Ia* implies iſland, would be the *ſea land iſland*; which being tautology, ſeems to deſtroy the ſuppoſition of this ending *generally* implying what authors have ſtated.*

* Vide Gen. Vallancey on *Ia* in his Proſpectus.

From

From what has been ſaid it is plain that the Menapii were the *dwellers on the ſea coaſt or borders of rivers:* and this will account for the Menapii of Belgia, and at the ſame time ſhew, as inhabitants were named from their lands, that theſe people might not coloniſe the coaſts of Wales and Ireland.

TRESADERN, or TRESADARN,

Is rendered by Mr. Whitaker *the town of Saturn.* After quoting from Mr. Hal's on this article with much approbation, of whom he elſewhere ſays, "I thus exhibit Mr. Hal's with all his erudition (as he thought it) waving his creſt of honour upon his head, and really, as my reader will think, with his coxcomb cap of folly pricking up his aſſe's ears at the ſides."—He thus ſpeaks of Dr. Pryce: "All this ſhews the folly of Pryce, who acknowledges no Saturn in the Corniſh language, though expreſsly acknowledged by Borlaſe."

I muſt here allow that the Carnabii of old may have worſhipped many Gods, and doubtleſs among the reſt Saturn. But our old names, as well as our ideas, naturally aroſe from our perceptions: and from natural ſitu-

ations in the moſt early times, places ſeem to have been denominated. I am therefore obliged to paſs by both Gods and Saints, however ſacred their names, and however revered their memories, and to analyſe the names of places from principles which nature directs, and in which ſhe often is perfectly painted. Should a few ſolitary inſtances be found, where a deviation has taken place, my principles will not, I truſt, be found ſuperſeded.

Sead or *Saide* is a ſeat, road, or way.—We have alſo *Sad-bergh*, in Durham on a rivulet which runs into the Tees; *Sadbergh*, on the Rother; *Saddington*, in Leiceſter; and *Saterleigh*, in Devon, which laſt ſeems to imply the ſame as Saternleigh: for *er* and *en*, in the compoſition of old names, appear to be diminutives, and *en*, *eun*, and *ern* the ſame.—Beſides theſe we have many names beginning with *Sid*, *Sed*, *Sad*, *Sod*, *Sud*, *Sat*, &c. in each of which the initial is often a prefix, in the names of ſtreams, hills, &c. In ſtreams *ſad* would mean no more than *id* or *ad*—*En* or *eun* is a diminutive, and as *u* and *r* were conſtantly changed for each other, *ern* would be the ſame. Thus alſo *an* may become *aun*,

and

may be changed to *arn* or *urn*, & hence *Satan* and *Saturn*, as Mr. W. ſuppoſes, may imply the ſame. The features of Treſadarn are not given, and to me are unknown: of its natural ſituation giving it name I have no doubt.

DADDY PORT.

About a quarter of a mile from Tregony Mr. W. ſays there is an *houſe* named *Daddy Port*, which he renders the PARENT *port* of Tregony! He mentions too that the houſe is of brick, and that it carries a modern aſpect. I ſuſpect therefore that the place gave name to the houſe, and muſt examine Daddy. *Dad* then comes moſt probably not from *tad*, *tat*, or *daid* father, as Mr. W. imagines, but when diſſected will be found to be compoſed of *ad* or *ead* water, with the prefix *d* taken to form its proper name: *i* or *y* is a diminutive; *Daddy Port* may therefore imply the little water port. Thus we have alſo *Dead-Man's-Head* on the Corniſh coaſt, and the river *Dead* in Pembrokeſhire, the *Taud* in Lancaſhire, &c. But if this word ſhould be derived from *aithe* an hill, changed to *ait*, *at*, or *ad*, then it will mean the little hill port. On the one hand we have the *Adur* or *Ader*, a river in Suſſex, the *Adder* or *Nadder*, in Devon. On the

the other we have *Addington*, in Surrey, on the declivity of a high ſpacious common.—Thus reader you muſt judge the import of Daddy from theſe or, perhaps, *other* features of the place.

HARTLAND and START POINT.

"*Hartavia*, *Artavia*, or *Hartland* doubtleſs comes from the Phœnician Hercules" ſays Mr. Polwhele. Dr. Stukeley alſo ſtates that it originated from the Tyrian Hercules. Richard, of Cirenceſter, ſays at Artavia, "Viſuntur Herculis Columnæ." And Hartland promontory is generally named *Promontorium Herculis*. "At *Start Point* Mr. Polwhele ſays there are ſtill remains of columns it is ſuppoſed to the memory of the Phœnician *Aſtarte*."

Of *Hartland* being derived from *Hercules* theſe are great authorities, nor ſhall we weaken ſuch teſtimonies. Our province is to explain words only. The *old* denomination was *Artavia*. The *new* one *Hartland*. *Art* is Gaelic for a *ſtone*, *tent*, *tabernacle*, or *houſe*: *av* is the *ſea*. Hence *Artavia* implies the *ſea mark* or *ſea ſtone*. *Lann* is alſo Gaelic for land, and *Hartland* means the *land mark* or *land ſtone*.

ſtone. But in both theſe names we loſe *Hercules!*

Start Point may alſo come from the ſame word *art*, with *ſt* prefixed as in ſtreams; and ſeems to point out that ſome *ſea mark* was there erected for guiding ſhips. Whether this were a *ſtone, tent, tabernacle, houſe,* or *tower* we know not; but we loſe in this tranſlation *Aſtarte* alſo!—With authors then who derive *Hercules* from *Hartland* or *Artavia,* or *Aſtarte* from *Start Point,* we muſt therefore diſagree; whilſt we doubt not their authority in hiſtoric relations.

But the lands here treated of run far into the ſea; and although we have given the reader literal explanations, they exhibit not the natural ſituation of theſe places.—*Earr* is *point* or *end,* and may imply *promontory.* In the names *Darty* and *Yarty* we find the *t* added to ſtrengthen the ſound: *Eart* may alſo have become *Art,* and may mean *point* or *promontory:* and *Start* (as in the Saxon *Steort)* may mean the ſame. Still, however, *Hercules* and *Aſtarte* are unaccounted for; and we muſt transfer the further enquiry to the reader.

The

The DANUBE.

A colony of Amonians, ſays the learned Mr. Bryant in his mythology, ſettled in Thrace; and in theſe parts are to be found many plain traces of their original hiſtory.—The Danube was properly *the river of* NOAH, expreſſed *Da*-NAU, *Da*-NAUOS, *Du*-NAUVAS, *Da*-NAUBUS,* v. Herod. lib. 4. Valerius Flaccus, lib. 4, has

"Quas Tanais ſavuſque *Lycus*† Hypaniſque Noasque,‡

"(Which is the true reading, v. l. 6. v. 100). By thoſe who live on the banks, it is called *Danau*. Not far off is the Boriſthenes, called alſo the *Neiper*. This river was alſo expreſſed with the particle prefixed *Danaper*. In the ſame part of the world is the river *Neiſter*: this likewiſe has been expreſſed *Danaſter* and *Daneſter*. People not underſtanding the prefix have uſed it as a part of the name."—Bryant's Mythol. v. 11, p. 338.

* In like manner a very late author derives *Britannia* from "*Brit-Tan-Nub-aia*, which he renders the land of the Fish-God-Noah, who entered into the covenant."

† Generally *Lyces*.—‡ Read oftener *nomaſque* and *melaſque*.

The

The river *Danube* was anciently named *Iſtros* by the Greeks: The Romans called it *Danubius* from the riſe to the middle of its courſe; and from thence to the mouth *Iſter*. The laſt name is derived from *ad* changed to *at, et, it* water, with *ſ* inſerted; and *er* implies *great, border,* &c.; and it is plain that in the time of Herodotus, and long ſince, *Noah* had not become the patron of this ſtream. Whether in after times hebecame ſo, we muſt now examine.

The river Danube is in German maps named *Donau* and *Donou*. In the ſea of *Azof*, not far from its mouth, the river *Don* diſcharges its waters. This laſt is a very large river, and by way of *eminence*, is now called the *Don*, or the ſtream: The firſt by way of *ſuper-eminence*, is ſtiled the *Donau*, the great ſtream or ſtreams.

The *Don* comes from *an* or *on* water:—*t* and *d* are known prefixes. We have a river in Yorkſhire named *Don*, which alſo means ſtream. *Au* or *ou* may be a plural ending or a ſynonyme of the adjective *all* or *oll*, as in the name *Briſtol* or *Briſtou*; and in the river *Oſkoll*, in the Ukraine. It means perhaps

great, noble, or *border,* &c. *L* and *u* were by the ancients commonly written for each other; and hence *Donau* meant alſo *the great or border ſtream. U* and *v* were always convertible, and *b* with a point (b·) was *v*. The Romans frequently latinized *u* and *v* by writing for them *b*. *A, o,* and *u* were anciently written for each other: hence *Donau, Donou, Danau, Danav, Danub,* or *Danube* meant the ſame as *Iſter,* the great or border ſtream, or the ſtreams; and *Noah,* without due conſideration, was introduced into the name of this river by Mr. Bryant.

HALDON, a Hill, near Exeter.

"Athelſtan now came, ſays Mr. Whitaker in his St. Germans. He wanted not to diſturb the ſerenity, yet reſolved to have his ſovereignty acknowledged by the King of Cornwall, as it had already by the King of Wales. *Howel* was then King, bearing a name as familiar in Cornwall ſtill as it formerly was in Wales. But our Howel was as little inclined as his brother of Wales to own the ſupremacy of Athelſtan. He even came into the field, like the King of South-Wales, to engage in battle with the Saxons. Athelſtan therefore attacked him with vigour.—

The

The battle was plainly fought near Exeter, and probably on Haldon hill. *Howel* and his Corniſh were beaten, as *Wer* and his Welſh were before." In a note he quotes Florence 848, "Huivalum prælio vicit & fugavit."—The name he adds "then would be derived from the incident *Hoel-don*, corrupted to *Haldon*."

On the authority of the name *Haldon* then alone, & without the teſtimony of any author for a battle on this hill, or any where *near* it, is Haldon derived from *Howel*. We wiſh this were leſs like fiction for hiſtory, and fancy for etymology. The appellation may originally be derived from *ald*, and this from *a* an hill, pronounced *au*, and changed to *al*. *H* was a common prefix before vowels, and hence (if you grant a change of vowels in names of hills in the ſame manner as evidently took place in ſtreams) *hal*, *hel*, and *hill* meant the ſame.—Hence *Helſton* in Cornwall, ſituated on the ſide of an hill, and *Halton* in Cheſhire. And, as *b* was alſo a prefix, *Belſton** in Devon, and *Belinſgate* in London, were derived the

* *Belſton*, in Hiſt. Col. for Devon, is derived from the god *Bel*—*Belinſgate*, in Hiſtories of London, from *King Belin*.

ſame. The firſt means the *hill country*; the ſecond the *little hill gate*.

D and *t* were often added after *r* and *l*, as in the river *Dourdwy* in Wales, the *Darty* and *Yarty* in Devon; and as in *alt* and *ald*, the Gaelic for an high place; or in *art* and *ard*, the Gaelic for the ſame. *On* was an augment, and hence *Haldon* means the *great hill*. POLDON will alſo, for the ſame reaſons, imply the *great hill*; and hence large hills ending in *on*, and which have the adjunct *down* given them, take it often from corruption.

CHIDLEY, CHEDDER, WIHTGARABYRIG or CARISBROOKE CASTLE, & MENDIP.

For the derivation of the firſt place we have the following relation: "In 577 Cuthwine and Ceawlin fought with the Britons, and ſlew three Kings, Commail, Condidan, and Fairinmail, in the place that is called Doerham. (Durham, near Marſh-Field, in the ſouth of Glouceſterſhire, and not far from Bath). "And took three Cheſters—Gleawanceaſter or Glouceſter, and Cyrenceſter and Bathanceſter or Bath." The Saxons, Mr. Whitaker ſays, thus entered upon the north

of

of Somerſetſhire, in their way towards Devonſhire." But the chronicle mentions no ſuch rout. "In 584 he further ſtates that Ceawlin and Cutha, the ſame as Cuthwine before mentioned, "fought the Bryttons in a place named *Fethan-leag*, and Cuthan was ſlain; and Ceawlin took many towns and ſpoils and treaſures without No, and then returns to his own again." This was plainly from the laſt ſtroke ſays Mr. W. not an invaſion of conqueſt like the former, but an incurſion for plunder only: and an incurſion ſo far into the country of the Britons, that a retreat back from it into the Engliſh poſſeſſions, was conſidered as an incident memorable enough for notice, even in ſo compendious hiſtory.—The ſcene of the battle was therefore, not as hath been hitherto ſuppoſed *Fretherne* on the Severn, but ſome place of the name of Featley, if the old appellation is ſtill preſerved, or of ſome name a *little* ſimilar, if that is loſt; and certainly very far within the poſſeſſions of the Britons at that time. For theſe reaſons I ſuppoſe the bold excurſion to have reached as far as Crud*leigh*, in Devonſhire, the latter half of this appellation being the ſame as the latter half of the other; and the place itſelf

nine

nine miles to the weſt of Exeter,- the Saxon King and his brother to have been there encountered by the *Danmonii*, and the brother ſlain, Ceawlin himſelf to have been ſeverely handled, yet to have made good his retreat with all his plunder; and the old name *Fethan-leag* or *Featley* to have been ſuperſeded among the Saxons afterwards, in conſequence of Cutha's or Chuta's death and burial there, by that of *Chudleigh*. So the caſtle in the Iſle of Wight, which was taken from the Britons by Cerdic in 530, and given to his nephew Wihtgar, an appellation then the ſame as Whitaker now,* is denominated by the Saxon chronicle in the year 530 itſelf *Wiht-gara-byrig*, Cariſbrooke caſtle at preſent, merely from the circumſtance of *Wihtgar* being buried there in 544."

The above derivation of Chidley is, we are obliged to ſay, unfounded; for this town is evidently far removed from the ſcene deſcribed in the chronicle; and there is no mention, in any hiſtory of the place of battle, nor of any town near it having changed names on the death of Cutha. Moreover,

* I think not, and the difference may be eaſily ſhewn.

leigh

leigh is a common adjunct; and *Cuthwine* or *Cutha* will be ſhewn, not originally to have been the prænomen of Chid*ley*. As to the name of *Wiht-gara-byrig*, the Saxon chronicle ſays that "In 530, Cerdic and Cynric conquered the Iſle of *Wiht* or *Wihtland*; and ſlew a great many men in *Wiht-gara-byrig*." Now it appears that there was a place prior to this conqueſt in Wihtland, named Wiht-gara-byrig: that it was taken, and men therein ſlain; but at *that time* nothing is mentioned of Wihtgar. The Saxon chronicle indeed in 534, four years after, ſtates that Cerdic died, and that his ſon Cynric ſucceeded and reigned twenty-ſix years. Theſe two Kings it is ſaid beſtowed on *Stuf* and *Wihtgar*, who were nephews to Cerdic, the whole iſland of Wiht; and it appears plainly from *Wiht* being the original pronunciation of the name of this iſland; and from *Garabyrig* being the name of a place therein when taken, that *Wihtgar* took his name therefrom, (as was common in theſe times) and not the place from him.

But we may carry our reaſoning farther to ſhew the inconſiſtency of Mr. W's. parallel: for

for if *Wiht-gara-byrig* took its name from *Wihtgar*, then *Wiht* itſelf muſt have been derived from this Chief: But the name of the iſland will ſoon be ſhewn to have been older than the time of the Saxons; and Cariſbrooke alſo to be derived from the Gaelic language: Thus *cau* an hill comes from *au*, and may be changed to *car* and *gar*. *Is* was a diminutive, and the ſame as *a*, or our *iſh*. —Hence *Cariſbrooke* means the little hill brooke; *Cariſbyrig* the little hill caſtle.

Chidley is the common pronunciation of *Chudleigh*, and is often written as pronounced. It is derived from *ceide* an hill; its root is *aithe* changed to *ait*, *aid*, *eid*. Hence *ceide* ſhould be rendered *hill*, as by Mr. Lhuyd, and not *hillock* as by Mr. Shaw. It muſt however be obſerved that the town is ſituated on a ſmall eminence; but the pariſh takes its name from the hills of Haldon and Ugbrooke, around and on which it lies. In doomſday the name is *Chid-er-leia*. *H* was pronounced in *ceide*, though not written, in the moſt early times. *Er* is border, and *ley* land; and *Chid-er-leia* will mean the hill border land.

Thus

Thus alſo we have *Chedder* in Somerſet, which lies partly very high on *Mendip*, on its brow, and partly on the border or valley.—The pariſh is very well deſcribed in Collinſon's Somerſet. Its name means *hill border* or *end*; and is a very appropriate name for the ſituation.

Mendip, written in an old ſurvey *Mcnedep*, has no etymon given it, but is derived from *monadh* or *menadh* a hill or mountain, and *ibh* country.

WINKLEIGH, BINCHESTER, WINGHAM, &c. &c.

The terms for hill and water are, in many inſtances from time and ignorance of the Gaelic language, become undiſtinguiſhed, and at preſent are ſometimes written the ſame.—*Beinn* or *binn* was even in the time of the Romans written *bin* and *vin* at ſeveral places—"*N*, when ſingle, ſays Mr. Shaw, ſounds hard in the Gaelic, nearly as the Engliſh, but when doubled becomes ſofter or more naſal, as may be ſeen from *bean* a woman; *beann* a mountain; *cean* affection; *ceann* a head."

Vin and *bin*, ſince the introduction of *w*, have become *win*: hence *Wingham*, in Kent,

is on an hill; *Wincaunton* (which Skinner derives from *vin* wine, and *Canute* the Dane,) is on the ſide of an hill; *Winchet* is an hill; *Winco-Bank* the ſame. To theſe we might add others. *Win* has become *Wing*, in Rutland, which ſtands high: it hath alſo become *Wink* in *Winkleigh*, Devon. The *g*, *ch*, *c*, and *k* have been added to make the *n* a heavy conſonant.

Bincheſter was the *Vinovium* of Antoninus, and the *Binovium* of Ptolomy. In the 7th vol. of the Archælogia it is ſuppoſed by Mr. Cave to be derived from the feſtivals inſtituted there in honour of Bacchus, by the Romans. The reader ſhould conſult his paper. But *bin* will be found in this name to mean hill, and *ov* is a ſynonyme of *av* water; *Binovium* therefore implies the ſtream hill; and this place lies on an hill, and on the banks of the river Were.

Other MISTAKES
Of Names commonly derived from Animals, Birds, Natural Productions, &c.

The River OTTER,

A name greatly miſtaken, is ſaid to be ſo called from the *great number of water-dogs* (otters)

(otters) found in this ſtream, and in which our ancient writers generally agree. Many of our modern authors alſo adopt this derivation. Some etymologiſts however derive it from *y-dur*, the water, which ſay they, the Anglo-Saxons, ſoftened into Otter. But this river comes from *od* or *ot* water. *Er* in ſome ſtreams ſeems to be a contraction of err or earr, border or boundary. Thus the *Tiber* was in the early part of the Roman hiſtory declared a boundary of *Etruria;* and moſt probably derived from the Gaelic *tib* or *tiv*, a ſynonyme of *tav* a ſtream, and *err* border.—The Otter is ſuppoſed by Baxter to be a boundary of the Danmonii, but diſtricts on ſtreams are often named *hams* or borders; and this word and its ſynonymes were anciently of frequent uſe. Hence it appears that portions of land were often denoted by names for water or ſtream, with *err* or *er* border poſtfixed. This river therefore may not have been a boundary of the Danmonii; but named *border ſtream* from the cuſtom of calling lands *hams* or borders which are ſituated on its banks.

The River DOVE

Is generally derived from the bird of this name; but *dob* or *dov* is Gaelic for ſtream.—We have already in the *Culm* combated a like derivation.

ASHCOMBE,

On Haldon, is derived by Riſdon and others from the *aſh trees* in its bottom. Ash in the names of places is *always* derived by authors from ash *trees;* and ſome diſtricts of this kingdom, in which this word occurs, carefully plant theſe trees in their church yards and hedges, to perpetuate the ſuppoſed etymology.

But *aſh* generally comes from *aſc* water, or from *ais* an hill: *ſ* before *e* and *i* in the Gaelic is equivalent to *ſh* in the Engliſh: and Lhuyd ſhews that *ſc* was often changed to *ſh* by the Normans.

Ais or *aſh*, in Aſhcombe, as it is ſituated partly on, and encloſed by, Haldon, implies an hill, and the whole name *Hill Combe.*

HACOMBE, Devon,

Is ſaid to be a "compound of *haege*, a Saxon word for hedge, and *combe* a vale; or of

of *heccha* and combe." "If, ſays the writer, the *firſt* conjecture be admitted, it means the *incloſed valley*; if the *ſecond* it ſignifies *Hecca's vale.*" But in the Celtic alphabet they had no *h*, and *a* implies an *hill.* This place therefore alſo means the *Hill Combe.*

ASHBURTON, Devon, BURTON, &c.

In doomſday *Aiſberton* is ſaid in the MS of Devonſhire pariſhes to imply "*Ais-beer-town:* the town at the manor of *Aſh Trees*!" I have frequently read of a manor of land, but never, except in this *MS*, one of aſh trees.—Aſhburton lies partly in a bottom by a ſtream, and partly on the ſides of riſing ground.—*Aſc*, water, may have become *aſh*, and this place from its firſt ſyllable might therefore have taken its name from water; but as it was written *ais* at the compiling of doomſday book it might originally mean hill.

Ber, *bor*, or *bur* has been derived from *berg* or *burg* in this and many other town's names; and this originally meant village or town; but in *after times a place of ſafety or privilege.* *Ber* or *bur* hath likewiſe been imagined to come from *bir* or *ber* water. But *er*, *or*, and *ur* is brink or border. After *r* the letters

letters *d* and *t* were often added to ſtrengthen the ſound of the ſyllable: hence *bord* alſo is Gaelic for border. To *ur*, *or*, or *er*, *b* has been prefixed as in *ber*, *bear*, *bord*, border; and hence *ber* or *bur* will in this, and a variety of other town's names, mean border. *Aſh-burton* either the water border, or the hill border town. *Burton* the border town.

But the endings of names in *aon*, *an*, *on*, *en*, *in*, &c. meant originally land; and prefixes were frequently added to theſe ſyllables: thus *tain*, *ten*, *tin*, *tan*, and *ton* were appellations for the ſame. Vowels were often multiplied in words; hence *ton* became *toun* and town. Laſtly names of lands became thoſe of towns and villages; and hence *ton* now implies town, village, &c. *Aſhburton* therefore may originally have meant the hill border land; *Burton* the border land. The ſame may be noted of other ſituations. The derivation of the word *ton* ſeems not to have been known, and the like may be ſaid of all our adjuncts.

SILVERTON, Devon, SILCHESTER,

"May ſignify, it is ſaid in the hiſtory of Devon, and MS of Devonſhire pariſhes, the great

great road town, from *Sel-fare-ton* ; or poſſibly *the rich town, Silver-ton.* *Seolfre* in Saxon is *ſilver.* This etymology it is added is readily ſuggeſted by its fertile ſoil, and ſweet ſituation."

But this town is on the declivity, and near the foot of a very fine hill. *Sil* may be derived from *a* or *au* an hill changed to *al,* and varied to *il,* as in the word *hill ;* of which laſt word, *ill* or *il* is the root. *S* is a prefix, as proved in the *Sid ;* hence *ſil* in this name is *hill ;* and the pariſh I believe includes this fine eminence. *Ver* is derived, as *ber,* from *er* border. *Silverton* is therefore the *hill border town.* *Silcheſter* and ſome other places beginning with *ſil* are derived from the hills on which they ſtand.

WHITSTONE, Devon.

In doomſday book *Witeſtan* is a name of which an author thus ſpeaks :—"Weſtcote thinks, that Whitſtone took its name from the whited tower's ſo conveniently ſtanding as to be a mark to ſhip men at ſea." If, continues this writer, the name have reference to the church, take *Mr. Hal's etymology.* Speaking of *Whitſtone,* in *Cornwall,* he ſays, "It was taxed

taxed in the doomſday by the name of *Witeſtan*; which, as I apprehend, hath myſtery in it, and refers not to any common ſtone in the pariſh, but to the words of our Saviour "to the ſeven churches of Aſia"—"To him that overcometh will I give a *white-ſtone*: and in the ſtone a new name written, *which no man knoweth*, ſaving he that receiveth it!"

Mr. Collinſon, in his hiſtory of Somerſet,* ſays, that "there are ſeveral parts of this neighbourhood which have the prænomen of *white* or *whitt*, ſuch as this pariſh of *White-Stanton*, *White-Lackington*, *White-Croſs*, *White-Down*, a diſcrimination they ſeem primarily to have derived from the SAINT *White*, who, together with SAINT *Rayn*, (according to William of Worceſter) was buried in a chapel upon the plain near Crewkerne."

But this name is derived from the Gaelic *aith* an *hill*. *D* and *t* are not at preſent aſpirated in many words derived from this language. Thus *geadha* is a *goad*; *meadh* is *mead* or *methiglin*; *nathair* is a *nadder* or *adder*, &c.

* Vol. 3—Page 126.

Hence

Hence then in Engliſh *aith* is ſometimes written without the *h*. *Ai* in the name *Ait* was pronounced variouſly in different times and places. In ſome as *e*, in others as *i*.—*Ait* therefore is *et* and *it*, and often *ed* and *id*. With *u* or *w* prefixed it will be *wet*, *wit*; *wed* or *wid*. Many, I might ſay moſt places, beginning with theſe ſyllables are on hills.—And as *wit* or *wid* was always pronounced *whid* or *whit*, and the word *ſtan* means country, *Whiteſtone* implies the *hill land*.

From *aith* the following Gaelic terms for hill ſeem to be derived, viz. *triath*, *ſioth-an*, *teide*, *ceide*, *cleite*, *croit*, *mota*, &c.—The hills *White-Torr*, *Bet-Torr*, *Widſham-Torr*, &c.

SKIDDAU or SKIDDAW.

We add this article under the claſs of hills derived from *aith*, to ſhew that *au* was an augmentative as well as *ar* and *all*, or *on*, as we mention in the head London. This name very appropriately means *the great hill*: for it is reckoned the higheſt in England.

BLACKASTONE

Is another range of hill country, and is derived from *aighe*, as in *Blackdown* or *Blagdon*.

The *a* after *black* is a contraction of *au great*; and *ſtone* was formerly *ſtan*, as in *Witeſtan*: this name then implies the *great hill country*. Under this head may be arranged the following: *Bag-Torr, Bow-Torr, Row-Torr, Ugborough-Torr, Laugh-Torr*; the Gaelic words for hill, *foige, ſigh*, &c.

INISWITRINN and AVALLON, now GLASTONBURY.*

William, of Malmſbury, writes to this purport in his account of this place: "It was firſt called *Iniſwitrinn* by the Britons, and afterwards by the Saxons interpreting the former name *Glaſtinbirig*; or taking it from *Glaſteing* one of the firſt ſettlers. It is alſo called the iſland of *Avallonia*; the original of which name is this: It has been ſaid that *Glaſteing* following his ſow found her ſuckling

* It may not be amiſs to mention that in the Hebrew "A is reckoned a ſervile.

B is alſo a ſervile, and when ſet at the beginning of a word ſignifies *in, by, with, for*, &c.

C is a particle of ſimilitude, *like, as, according to.*

H is emphatical, and means *the, this.*

L is a prepoſition, *from, as*, &c.

N in the beginning forms proper names.

S denotes *who, which*, &c.

T prefixed denotes a *noun.*"

her

her pigs under an apple-tree, near an ancient chapel built by the diſciples of Chriſt. Here he diſcovered apples which were extraordinary rare in theſe parts; and he called it the iſland of *Avallonia*, that is the iſland of Apples; for *avalla* ſignifies *apples* in the Britiſh tongue: or elſe it was ſo called from one *Avalloc*, who is ſaid to have lived here with his daughters, becauſe of the privacy of the place."

Dugdale in the Monaſticon ſays, "This iſland, in which this church ſtands, was by the Britons firſt called *Ynſwytryn*, that is the *Glaſs Iſland*, by reaſon of the river, as it were of the colour of glaſs, encompaſſing the marſh. It was called an iſland, becauſe encloſed by a deep marſh. It was called Avallonia, either from the Britiſh word *aval*, ſignifying an apple, as being full of fruit trees, or from *Avallon*, who was once Lord of that territory. The Saxons gave it the name of *Glaſtingebury*, that is *the town of glaſs*.

Mr. Whitaker ſays, "The principal production of our orchards has derived its preſent appellation among us from the Britiſh language; and in the Welſh, Armorican, and

Iriſh is invariably denominated the *avall, aball,* or *apple:* and it ſeems to have been brought into Britain by the firſt colonies of the natives, and by the *Iaedui* of Somerſetſhire particularly. Hence we find the preſent ſcite of Glaſtonbury to have been diſtinguiſhed *before the arrival of the Romans* by the ſignificant title of *Avallonia,* or the *Apple Orchard.* The fruit alſo ſo ſtrongly recommended itſelf to the Britiſh, that another *Avellena* aroſe in the North of England."*

"The ſpot, ſays the hiſtorian of Somerſet, was at this early period called by the natives *Inſwytryn,* or the *Glaſſy Iſland,* either becauſe its ſurface repreſented *glaſten,* or *blue green colour;* or becauſe it abounded with the herb *glaſt* or *woad,* with which they were uſed to tinge their bodies. In after times it received the fancied name of *Avallon,* or the *Iſle of Apples;* or the land where Avalloc, a Britiſh chief, firſt pitched his reſidence: the Saxons finally calling it *Glaeſtingabyrig.*"

To theſe authorities I muſt add that *Iniſwitrin* comes from the Gaelic word *Inis* an

* Hiſtory of Mancheſter.

iſland;

iſland; *wit* an *hill*; and *rinn*, a *ridge*, *point*, or *peak*; and theſe terms very appropriately imply the *peak hill iſland*.

I beg alſo to ſtate that if *Avalon* be derived from *aval* an apple, and *on* be an *augment*, then this name will imply the GREAT APPLE!

To eſtabliſh correctly the ſenſe of names, like denominations ſhould be compared, and ſituations whether on *hills*, *water*, *vallies*, &c. ſhould be aſcertained. But the natural poſitions of places are ſeldom attempted in deſcription; and authors rarely give the face of the lands which they propoſe to delineate.* Hence muſt we often gueſs at the features of the country: and as denominations of hill, dale, river, &c. are frequently ſimilar in ſound, uncertainty ariſes; and opinions are ſometimes hazarded on ſlight or inſufficient grounds.

APPLEBY, Weſtmoreland.

"*No certain derivation*, ſay Mr. Nicholſon and Dr. Burn, *of this word hath been agreed upon*.

* Inſtead of deſcribing places, authors often entertain us with genealogical accounts of families to which the lands have belonged. But from the deſcriptions of pariſhes in Collinſon's Somerſet, I have found myſelf perfectly ſatisfied.

upon. Without having recourſe to the Roman name *Aballaba,* (which Mr. Horſley doubts whether it was the Roman name of this place, but rather thinks this was the Roman *Galacum)* we chuſe to adopt a more *obvious* denomination, *by referring it to the fruit of that name.* And if this place was indeed the Roman *Aballaba,* yet the Romans did not ordinarily impoſe new names, but only modified the names they found at the ſeveral places according to their own idiom. So that we may ſuppoſe ſomething of the like pronunciation had been here before the Roman times; and perhaps we may aſcend ſo high as the Hebrew tongue for its origin.— *Appel, abel, afel,* is common to the *Saxon, Belgic, Daniſh,* and other northern languages, and by univerſal conſent hath been appropriated *to particulariſe* THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT. *Abel,* or as the Hebrews ſoften it, *Avel,* (by a tranſmutation frequent in all languages of the letters *b, t,* and *v)* ſignifies *ſorrow, mourning,* and *woe. And it is exactly agreeable to the figurativeneſs of that language, to transfer the word to this fruit upon the aforeſaid conſideration.* Our Engliſh Saxon word *evil* ſeems to ſpring from the ſame ſource; and a *doer of evil*

evil for the ſame reaſon is contracted into *devil*. *Malum*, to ſignify an *apple*, may poſſibly have been received into the Latin tongue from the like cauſe. The name is not peculiar to this place. There is an *Appleby*, Magna, and Parva in Leiceſterſhire, and others in other places. So there is an Applethwaite, Applegarth, Appleton, and the like of the ſame name."

But the chief part of lands and towns have Gaelic roots for names, and Gaelic endings: *Abbal* is *apple*; and *bi* is *little*. If therefore apple in this name be referred to the fruit of this name, and we adopt a literal tranſlation, this place, to diſtinguiſh it from Avalon, may mean THE LITTLE APPLE! Authors, however, account *By Saxon*; and in the ends of names render it habitation: ſo that Appleby will imply the *apple habitation!* But neither the *little apple*, or the *apple habitation*, is implied in this name; nor is *By Saxon*. *Bigh* or *By* was an old word for habitation. *Each rus* is ſaid to be houſe; but as *rus* is wood, *each rus* muſt be the *wood houſe*, and *each* houſe only: but *each*, *eagh*, *aigh*, and *igh* with *t* prefixed is houſe; with *b* it will be the ſame, if you allow

allow the ſame prefixes to names of houſes, as to rivers, hills, &c.

Apple, apal, or *apel* may be derived from various ſources: thus *av* is *water,* and *ap* may be the ſame; and *al* or *el* may be uſed in different ſenſes.

It may be urged that diſtricts might receive their names from apples or orchards, as well as from the natural ſituations of places: and we know, that not only this fruit, but vines are aſſerted by learned authors to have given names to ancient places. Thus ſtrawberries have alſo given denominations to *modern* villas! In fancy we may contemplate a great variety; but we muſt not attribute ſo much thereto as to ſuperſede examination, or to ſubvert probability. Lands were generally named before vineyards or orchards were planted; and although we deny not, that a few ſolitary inſtances may be found, where a vicious taſte has ſuperſeded judgment; the reader will perceive in every diſtrict of this kingdom, that *pariſhes* and *manors* are denoted by *ſtream, hill, valley, border,* &c.: and that their names generally paint, not their little accidental embelliſhments and productions, but

but their great natural ſituations and features. But to return,

In naming an iſland the term *water* is generally mentioned. Thus in this very word *iſland*: the firſt ſyllable *is* denotes *water*; *land* comes from the Gaelic word *lann*, as has been already obſerved; and the compound term means *water land*.

On the word *Avalon* we muſt ſtate, that a Wapentake, in *Holland*, Lincolnſhire is termed *Avelland*. This name means the ſame nearly as *Avalon*. *Ave* or *ava*, from *av* the *ſea* or *water*, meant originally alike in theſe names: and as *lann* or *lonn* was Gaelic for *land*, *lonn* and *land* were alſo ſynonymes.—Hence *Aveland*, *Avalon* or *Avalonn* mean the *water* or *ſea land*.

Further to eſtabliſh the above we may enquire the import of the word *Holland*. According to Camden, Ingulphus names it *Hoiland*. "It is, ſays he, next the ſea, and like Holland, in Germany, is ſo very moiſt in many places that a deep print of one's foot remains, and the ſurface itſelf ſhakes, if ſtamped on.—From whence it may ſeem to have taken the

name, unleſs with Ingulphus one ſhould call it *Hoiland*, and derive it from *plenty of hay.*"

"This and Holland, continues he, in the low countries agreeing ſo exactly in their ſituation, ſoil, and moſt other circumſtances, the original of the name is, without doubt, one and the ſame. Mr. Butler's conjecture drawn from the Saxon word *holt* a wood, and that other from *hay*, ſeem both to have one and the ſame objection againſt them—that the ſoil does not favor it either; at leaſt not ſo much as to render the place eminent for either, eſpecially conſidering its ancient ſtate."

In the introduction *av, au, ou,* and *ol* will be found ſynonymes for *water*. *H* originally was *pronounced* before, and in time *preſixed* to initial vowels; and hence *ol* became *holl*; and *Holland* implies the ſame as *Aveland*—the *water land.*

The uncertainty of the true etymology of a place is ſometimes great; and as we have elſewhere ſaid, probability only in tranſlations is to be expected: but againſt rational evidence we ought not to enter the liſts. In the word *tain* we find denoted *water* and *country*;

country: and in the words *Avalon* and *Appleby*, to ſet aſide the *forbidden fruit*, the *great* or *little apple*, the *glaſten* or *blue green*, with *Avalloc*, and even the *doer of evil* himſelf, there ſeemed to be ſome latitude for conjecture.

Having ſhewn the meanings of *Iniſtwitrin* and *Avalon*, I ſhall conclude with ſtating, that *Glaeſ-tinga-byrig* ſeems to imply the *water land town*; and to come from *cais*, *clais*, or *glais*, (as in the introduction) water; *tain*, land; and *burg* written *byrig*, a town.

Of the derivation of *rivers* and *mountains* by the ancients, the following ſpecimen is taken from a little treatiſe, attributed to Plutarch.

ARAR, now LA SAONE.

"*Arar* is a river in that part of *France*, formerly called *Gallia Celtica*, deriving the name from its being mixed with the river Rhodanus. For its fall into the Rhoſnæ within the country of the Allobroges.* It was formerly called *Brigulus*, but afterwards changed its

* Where now ſtand the cities of *Chambery*, *St. Jean Mouſtere*, *Geneva*, and *Vienne*.

name upon this occaſion. *Arar* as he was hunting, entering into the wood, and there finding his brother *Celtiber* torn in pieces by the wild beaſts, mortally wounded himſelf for grief, and fell into this river; which from that accident was afterwards called by his own name *Arar*."

"In this river there breeds a certain large fiſh, which by the natives is called *Calpaea*.—This fiſh during the increaſe of the moon is white: but all the while the moon is in the wane, it is altogether black; and when it grows over bulky, is, as it were, ſtabbed by its own fins. In the head of it is found a ſtone like a corn of ſalt, which being applied to the left parts of the body when the moon is in the wane, cures quartain agues, as Calliſthenes the Sybarite tells in his thirteenth book of Gaelic relations; from whom *Timagenes* the Syrian borrowed his argument."

Near to this river ſtands a mountain called Lugdunus, which changed its name on this occaſion. When *Momorus* and *Artepomorus* were dethroned by *Seſeroneus*, in purſuance of the oracles command, they deſigned to build a city upon the top of the hill. But when they had laid the foundation, great numbers

numbers of crows, with their wings expanded, covered all the neighbouring trees. Upon which *Momorus*, being a perſon well ſkilled in augury, called the city Lugdunum.* For *Lugon* in their language ſignified a *crow*; and *dunum* any *ſpacious hill* or *wide place*; as *Clitophon* reports in his thirteenth book of the *building of cities*.

In the tranſlation of Mercator's geography this city is ſaid to be derived "by ſome from *Lugure*, by others from *Lucere*, becauſe it ſtandeth upon an hill, as a watch-towre maketh farre and neere a lucent and ſhyning proſpect. Others againe, will have the name thereof fetcht from *Lugdo* King of *Celtes*. In an ancient journal, which was made from Bourdeaux unto Jeruſalem, in the later part thereof, this city is named *Lugdunum*, which is interpreted in French: La *Montagne deſirée de* Lion—*the deſired mountain of Lyons*. But it ſeemeth thoſe ſearch the original of it further which derive it from the Belgic, or Nether-Dutch-word *luck*, which ſignifieth *fortune*; ſo that *Lyons* ſhould have been a mountaine dedicated to *fortune*."

* Now in Engliſh *Lyons*, which the French write more rightly *Lyon*.

I preſume not to enter into the hiſtory of this river, and its mountain, nor to explain the entertaining fables which their ſtory may contain: theſe may perhaps be found elucidated in hiſtories of Lyons, or in books of Heathen Deities, to which unlike my authors I cannot refer the reader; but my work demands that I ſhould explain *Arar*, *Lugdunus*, *Lugon*, and *Lyon*.

Arar then is derived from *ar*, a ſynonyme of *av* or *au* water: *ar* in the ending of this word is an augmentative, and a ſynonyme of *oll great*: *Arar* will therefore mean the *great water or ſtream*.

Lug comes like the river *Lug*, in Herefordſhire, from *ug* or *uc* a ſynonyme of *oc* water, which, with *l* prefixed, means *lake* or *ſtream*: or it may be derived from *loch* a *lake*. *Dun*, or as latinized *Dunum*, means *hill*, *fortreſs*, or perhaps *town*; and *Lugdun* or *Lugdunum* implies the *ſtream*, *hill*, *fortreſs*, or *town*.

This place was firſt built on a mountain near the banks of the *Saone*; but afterwards by "L. M. *Plancus* enlarged greatly, and from the mountain upon which it was firſt inhabited,

habited, removed into the plain." *Lugon* may therefore be a contraction of *Lugdon*, and mean as above; or it may be another name for this city. If the latter, *on* may be an augmentative of ſtream; or it may mean *diſtrict, country, town,* &c. The *g* was often pronounced as a *y*; and hence *Luyon* or *Lyon* will mean in this caſe the *great ſtream*, or the *ſtream territory* or *ſtream town.*

Of the *uſual Modes* of rendering into Engliſh the Names of STREAMS, &c.

The following obſervations deſerve particular attention, as they relate to the uſual method of deriving rivers, towns, &c. in this kingdom.

Camden in his Britannia, page 747, Gibſon's edition, ſays "I cannot conjecture what might be the original ſignification of the word *Tav*; but it may be worth obſervation, that the moſt noted rivers in South Wales ſeem to be from thence denominated. For beſides that there are three or four rivers of that name; the firſt ſyllable in *Towy, Teivi,* and *Dyvi* ſeems to be but ſo many pronunciations of it; and for the latter ſyllable I have elſewhere offered my conjecture, that it only denotes

notes a river or perhaps water. Nor would it ſeem to me very abſurd, if any ſhould derive the river Thames from the ſame original. For ſince it is pretty evident that the Romans changed *Dyved*, the ancient name of this country, into *Dimetia*; and *Kynedhav* (a man's name) into *Cunotamus*: and alſo that in many words where the Latins uſe an *m*, the Britons have an *n*, as Firmus, Firv; *Terminus*, *Tervin*; *Amnis*, *Avon*; *Lima*, *Lhiv*, &c. it is not unlikely (conſidering we find the word *Tav* uſual in the names of rivers) that the Britons might call that river *Tav*, *Tawy*, or *Tawys*, before the Roman conqueſt, which they afterwards called *Tameſis*. And this ſeems to me more than a conjecture, when we conſider further, that the word *Tav* was according to the old Britiſh orthography written *Tam*, which ſhews that not only *Tav* or *Taff*, in Glamorganſhire, &c. is originally the ſame word with *Thame* or *Thames*; but alſo that the Greek Ταμος in Πρταμος is probably no other."

In Radnorſhire, page 698, he alſo writes, "which word (the *Wye*) tho' it be here the name of a river, ſeems to have been anciently

an

an appellative either for *river* or *water*: for although it be not uſed at preſent in that ſenſe, nor yet preſerved in any gloſſary or other books, yet I find it in the termination of the names of many of our rivers. Ex. Gr. *Lhugwy, Mynwy, Mowdhwy, Tawy, Towy,* &c. Now that this final ſyllable *wy*, in theſe names of rivers, is the ſame as *gwy*, ſeems more than probable: in that we find the river *Towy*, called in the book of Landaff *Tiugui* (ab Hoſtia Taratir ſuper ripam *Gui* uſque ad Ripam *Tiugui*, &c.) and alſo the river Elwy, called *Elgui*. And that *gwy* and *wy* ſignified water ſeems further to be confirmed from the names of ſome aquatic animals, as *Gwyach, Giach, Eog* alias *Oiog*, &c. This being granted we may be able to interpret the names of ſeveral rivers which have hitherto remained unintelligible: as *Lhugwy clear water*; from *Lhug*, which ſignifies *light* or *brightneſs*; *Dowrdwy, loud water*, from *Dwrdh noiſe*; *Edwy* a ſwift or rapid ſtream, from *Ehed to fly*, &c.

Dr. Pryce, in his vocabulary, Mr. Lewis, formerly of Honiton, Dr. Borlaſe, and all our writers, agree with Camden in the above

 principles,

principles, and all aſſert that *guy*, *uy*, *wys*, *eg*, *y* and *i*, in the endings of names, mean *water* or *river*.

Of the Names of MOUNTAINS or HILLS, from *Baxter*, *Lewis*, and others.

"The moſt common way of naming hills they lay was by *metaphors*, drawn from the ſeveral parts of the human body. Thus ſome were called *y voel* bald pate, *y benglog* a *ſkull*, *tall* the *forehead*, *cern* one *ſide* of the *face*, *ael* an *eye-lid*, *llygad* an *eye*, *rhyn* a *noſe*, *genau* a *mouth*, *pen* the *head*, *munugl* the *neck*, *braich* an *arm*, *bron* the *breaſt*, *keſt* the *belly*, *clun* the *hip*, *cevan* the *back*, *yſtlys* the *ſide*, *bontin* the *buttock*, *eſgair* a *leg*, and *troed* a *foot*."—Thus, reader, have we *metaphorically* travelled from *head* to *foot*!

Camden, in his reaſoning on the words *Tav*, *Tiv*, *Tau*, *Tam*, &c. is nearly correct; and it is rather ſurpriſing, without the knowledge of their derivations, that he ſhould have gueſſed ſo correctly; but in the meaning of *guy*, *wy*, *y*, &c. in the ending of names, he was not ſo happy: for if *Tav* or *Tiv* mean *water* or *river*; and *guy*, *wy*, *y*, &c. *water* and *river* alſo; then *Tivguy* would be *tautology*.

The

The River WYE, and the Diminutives GWY, WY, BI, &c.

The firſt word, as we had no *w* nor *y* in the old language of this country, muſt have been originally written *vie*, which according to Lhuyd implies water: but the adjective and diminutive *i*, with the prefixes *gw, gu, b*, &c. as in *gwy, guy, bi*, &c. implies little, low, ſhallow, &c.

The reader will readily grant that towns for convenience were neceſſarily built near water, or on rivers; and that they and the lands around them, generally took their names from the ſtreams on which they were ſituated. Hence if the names of theſe ſtreams, and their ſynonymes have been unknown, he will not be ſurpriſed if authors have failed in their derivations. The following example ſhews our very imperfect acquaintance with etymology:

HONITON.

"From Upottery, ſays Mr. Lewis in Mr. Polwhele's hiſt. views of Devon, the river Otter deſcends to Honiton, which may be derived from the Britiſh words *Cun-y-tun*, i. e. *Oppidum Caninæ Aquæ*—*Cun* ſignifying dogs,

and *y* water. The only difficulty is about *c*'s being changed to *h*."

"Moſt probably, ſays Mr. Polwhele, *Honiton* took its name from *Onnen-y-tun—Oppidum Fraxineæ Aquæ*, a town on an aſh river."

"The name of Honiton is of obſcure etymology, ſays another author in the 52d vol. of the gentleman's magazine. *Ton* ſignifies an habitation, a town; *honi* in the old Norman French ſignified the ſame as *honte* does now, that is *ſhame* or *diſgrace*. An old Legend relates, that at a certain time almoſt all the women of the place were barren, and of courſe childleſs; that, to remedy this evil, they were enjoined by the prieſts to repair to St. Margaret's chapel, and paſs one whole day and night there, in prayer, when by means of a viſion they would become pregnant; and the ſaint never abuſed their confidence.—The arms of the borough, which are ſingular, ſeem to allude to ſomewhat of this kind, though perhaps of a Saxon origin. It repreſents a pregnant female in devotion to an idol auſpicious to parturient women, an obſtetric hand above, a honeyſuckle beneath, the whole ſurrounded by beads. There is

now

now, however, no occaſion for any invocation to the ſaint; the *honi*, or ſhame and diſgrace of the town, being long ſince compleatly done away." Mr. Polwhele, in the hiſtory of Devon, gravely corrects Mr. Feltham on the word *honi*: but the reader who traces King Lud to Ludgate, who has viſited Iſis at Paris, and who has examined the arms of Hertford, needs no more doubt the truth of this Legend, than the propriety of the derivations of Honiton which precede it.

An, *on*, or *un*, in the compoſition of names for ſtream, is Gaelic for water; and in the dictionaries of this language there is no *h*, although before nouns of the feminine gender beginning with a vowel,* *h* is as ſtrongly expreſſed in the Iriſh as in the Engliſh.—Hence *Honiton* (in doomſday book *Hanitone* and *Hunitone*) was written *Anitone*, *Onitone*, or *Unitone*, and pronounced *Hanitone*, *Honitone*, or *Hunitone*. In time the *h* was prefixed in writing. *Han* or *hon* then means water or ſtream; *i* or *y* is Gaelic for little or ſhallow. Hence the rivers *On-ey* or *Oney*, in Salop, and in Hertfordſhire; the *Un-es* a ſtream, and

* Gen. Vallancey's Grammar.

Uny,

Uny, in Cornwall. After *n* the letter *d* was often added; and hence the river *Ande*, in Hamſhire. To theſe we might add *En-ian*, in Cornwall, and the *Inny*, in Ireland. The words *born* and *brooke* were often ſubjoined by the Saxons to ſmall ſtreams; and hence likewiſe *Hon-ey brooke*, *Honey born*, &c. I have now proved that *Honiton* implies THE LITTLE WATER LAND AND TOWN. The pariſh lies on a ſmall ſtream.

To ſhew that *i* or *y* in the endings of names denotes little, ſhallow, low, &c. I may enumerate the *Creedy*, the *Bovy*, the *Tinny*, the *Tiddy*, the *Becky*, the *Cary*, the *Colly*, the *Meavy*, the *Torey*, the *Oldy*, the *Berry*, the *Corry*, &c. in Devon; in each of which the *y* in the ending denotes *a little or ſhallow ſtream*. The ſmall ſtreams of the whole kingdom ending in *i* or *y*, might be produced to corroborate this ſingular, and hitherto, unknown fact.

Before I proceed it may be neceſſary to mention that previouſly to the year 1200, *w* and *y* were not found in old MSS.—that *g* was formerly ſometimes pronounced as *y*—and in the middle of words, if *u* follows *g*, it

muſt

muſt be often omitted ſays Lhuyd. Again, this author intimates "That the Britons anciently inſerted *g* in the middle of words, ſometimes out of regard to derivation, and ſometimes in imitation of the ſame orthography *unneceſſarily*, writing *Tawy, Tagui; Mynuy, Mingui*, &c." "*U* was alſo, he ſays, pronounced as *y* or *i*; as *Fual* was read *Fyal*." In his Corniſh grammar he ſays "It retained this pronunciation in all ages, and has been this laſt century confined to it alone." Hence then as *g* may not have been always in this ending; as *w* and *y* could not be; and as *u* and *i* were pronounced generally alike; *i* only which formerly ſupplied the place of *y*, was *neceſſary* in this final ſyllable. But we have ſeen that *i* took prefixes; and *gu, w, b*, &c. were prefixes only, in *Lugwy, Dowrdwy, Ealwy, Tiwgui*, &c.

Of Places in VALLIES, or on PLAINS, I ſhall give one inſtance only.

DAWLISH or DAULISH,

A village on the coaſt of Devon. In doomſday book *Doulis*; the *is* pronounced *iſh*. *S* before and after *e* and *i* in the Gaelic is equivalent to *ſh* in Engliſh: thus *Raidis*

Gaelic

Gaelic is *Radiſh* in Engliſh. This place has been ſuppoſed to imply "*Duff lui*, the deep promontory; or *Dolis*, a fruitful mead in a bottom, or by a river ſide."

"*Dole* by the Britons, ſays *Sammes*, is called a *plain* or *valley*, lying to the ſea or a river; and Ninnias, an ancient Britiſh writer, ſays, Cæſar fought a battle on *Dole*; and from which the city *Dole*, in Armorica, hath its name; and all from *Daula*, a plain in the Phoenician." But this village is likely to have taken its name from its valley. *Dal* in the Gaelic is *a plain field or dale*. The *a* was pronounced as in *call* or *ſmall*, nearly as *au*; and hence *Dauliſh*, very appropriately for its ſituation, will mean the *little dale*. We have ſome towns on plains beginning with this prænomen. In Ireland many names of places are derived from the plains on which they are ſituated; but there are few ſo named in English.

TOPSHAM, Devon,

"Derived by Baxter from KOPPA-SEA-HAM, *Oppidum ad caput Maris*"—comes from *dob* a ſtream. *D* and *t* are convertible, as are alſo *b* and *p*. Hence *dob* and *top* may mean ſtream

—otherwiſe

—otherwiſe *ev* water, changed to *ov* and *op*, with *t* prefixed, will compoſe this prænomen. *Ham* is border or village.

MAMHEAD, MAM TORR, &c.

Mamhead (in doomſday book *Mameord*) pronounced ſtill *Mamyeord*, is derived by authors from *mam*, mother, and *head* peace; and Mamhead, which took its name from the end of Haldon, a promontory overlooking the ſea, the æſtuary of the Exe, and the country far around, has been rendered *mother peace!*

Not ſo would a ſpectator on the top of this hill render the compound word. A handſome ſtone obeliſk was, in the laſt century, erected here; but the warring elements have ſhivered from the column and baſe large pieces of their contents; and in time total deſtruction, but for ſome friendly repairs, muſt inevitably enſue.

Of the wreck ſcattered around this building, *mother peace* could not be the agent; and yet *Mam Torr*, in Derbyſhire, is alſo rendered *Mother Torr*, and that too by very late writers!

But *mam* is Gaelic for hill; and *eord*, from *earr*, is end, head, promontory, &c. Hence *Mameord* is the hill end or promontory. I ſhould render *Mam Torr* Peak Hill.

HENNOCK,

Beyond Haldon, has been tranſlated *Old Hill*; but the ſituation of the *new* one is not recorded. This pariſh has been derived from the Welſh *hen* old, and the Iriſh *cnoc* a hill: but this Welſh and Iriſh connection is not, like *many* others, a happy one. *Hennock* in doomſday book is written *Hanoch* and *Ainech*, and comes from the Gaelic *Aonach*, a hill, or rather hill country.

BUCKLAND, BUCKFASTLEIGH, TOTNES,

Lie on the river Dart. From bucks or deer, or from the tenure of Bocland, are the two firſt, and all other places, beginning with *buck*, derived by our etymologiſts. But theſe ſmall unconnected portions of land, adjoining others evidently named from the ſtream, abounded not more with bucks than other parts; and were named before the tenure of Bocland was known. *Buck* in the names of lands on ſtreams, is derived from *ock* or *uck* water. We have many ſtreams named *Beck* and

and *Becky*, and the river *Bache* in Montgomeryſhire. *A*, *o*, and *u* were written indiſcriminately—*Bache*, *Back*, or *Buck* will therefore mean the ſame; and *Buckland* the ſtream land.

Buckfaſtleigh, in doomſday *Buckfeſtre*, comes alſo from *buck* a ſtream. *Fes* was derived from *fais*, and this from *ais* an hill, in the ſame manner as *feithe*, the Gaelic for hill, comes from *aithe* changed to *eithe*. *Tre* and *ter* are derived from *tir* land. Leigh is a tranſlation of *tir*, and means in this, as well as in other places, land only.

Totnes, in doomſday *Totenais*, and in other places *Totonais*, is ſaid in the MS of Devonſhire pariſhes, to be literally the *town of foxes!* Leland thinks its name Dodneſs, and that it ſignifies a rocky farm.

"*Totnes* vel *Totonais*, ſays Skinner in his Etymologicon, in Com. Dev. fortean á Fr. *Totene*, *Polypus Piſcis* qui crebo ibi capitur."

But Totenais may be derived from *ad* water, changed to *at* and *ot*, with *t* prefixed: we have the river *Taud*; and as *dob* a ſtream comes from *dobhar*, ſo *dot* will come from

dothar, which is ſtream alſo. *Dot* and *tot* are ſynonymes. *En* or *on* in the names of places means generally land. *Ais* is Gaelic for hill, and means alſo a fortreſs. *Neas* is a fortified hill—*Totenais* will therefore imply the ſtream hill or fortreſs land—*Totneas* the ſtream fortified hill. But if *on* in *toton* ſhould be an augment of ſtream, then *Totonais* would imply the great ſtream hill or fortreſs.

HARROW, Middleſex—HALLOW, Worceſterſhire.

The firſt is ſuppoſed to be derived from the word *arrow*, and this old warlike inſtrument is uſed for arms of this place: but the etymon of this name is *au* an hill, changed to *ar*. *Ou* or *ow* has been ſhewn to be an augment; *arrou* or *arrow* will therefore imply the great or high hill. The *h* was a prefix as in Haldon. *Au*, an hill, may alſo be changed to *al*; and *allow* or *hallow* will mean the ſame as *arrow* or *harrow*.

BARNSTAPLE, BARSTABLE, &c.

The Roman name of this firſt place is ſuppoſed to be written by the Monk of Ravenna *Apaunaris*. Baxter alters it to *Aber-nauiſc*, which he interprets the *mouth of the water*.

This

This town is ſituated about twelve miles from the mouth of the harbour at the confluence of the *Tau*, and a ſmall ſtream named the *Yeo*. *Barn* comes from *Baun*, the *r* inſerted inſtead of the *u*, and means *ſtream*.—We have the *Barn-ey*, a ſmall ſtream in Yorkſhire; and *Barnford*, in Lancaſhire, near Bolton. *Bar*, in *Barſtable*, comes from *au* an hill, changed to *ar*, with b prefixed.

Staple or *ſtable* has not been given an appropriate etymon, and is generally ſuppoſed to mean a *mart*. Baxter ſays "it comes from *ſtabulum*, which is the ſame as *ſtatio*." But *ſtaple* or *ſtable* was originally derived from the Gaelic word *ſta*, a ſtand, ſtation, or ſettlement; and *Baile* a *tribe*: hence *ſtable* or *ſtaple* will mean the *tribe*, *ſettlement*, or *town*, which was perhaps their mart or market.

In like manner a *ſtable* may be derived from *ſta* a *ſtand*, and *peall* a *horſe*; which will mean literally a *horſe ſtand*.

The Gaelic word for *ſtand* was alſo *ſtad*; and hence our word *ſtead* in towns' names.

I find no ground for ſuppoſing *Barnſtaple Apaunaris*. The derivation of *Aber*, or more juſtly

juſtly *Aberr* or *Abearr*, though ſo common a name, a word in Wales, hath not been explained.

Ab is *water* or *ſtream*, and is derived from *av*; and *err* or *earr* is the *end*, *concluſion*, *tail*, *limit*, *boundary*. Hence many ſmall, as well as large, *boundary rivers*, may have the adjunct *err*, *earr*, or the contraction *er*, in their names.

APPLEDORE,

In doomſday book *Apledore*, ſeems to be derived from *av* or *ap* ſtream, *all* or *oll* great, or *al* or *el* border, and *dor* a dwelling; and to mean the *great water dwelling*, or the *water border habitation*.

TIVERTON and DAVERTON, Devon,

Not much unlike *Biddiford*, which is rendered By-the-Ford, is Tiverton ſaid to mean *Twi-ford-town*, from having a ſtream on each ſide of it. *Twi* and *tiv* have been accounted ſynonymes; but *twi* is allowed to mean two; and *tav* varied to *tiv* is known to mean ſtream. Twifordton and Tiverton are therefore not ſynonymous names. *Er* in Tiverton means border, and the whole name the ſtream border land or town.

Daverton,

Daverton, now written *Thorverton*, is rendered "through the land and town," and "a thoroughfare;"* but ſuch explanations are a burleſque on etymology. From the derivations already given, it evidently appears, that at a very early period ſome *general principles* were deviſed for naming the lands, and the ſettlements upon them: their denominations, as I have rendered them, proclaim this truth. Let the reader try every other mode for explaining their appellations: among theſe let him have recourſe to the rules of Mr. Lhuyd in Baxter's gloſſary, Mr. Whitaker's method of trying *all* the Celtic languages, for diſcovering etymons, which were given from *one* only, or to ſome other method; but let him avoid ſteering more wide of truth.

Such explanations as I have quoted, and which have been neceſſarily given to elucidate the preſent ſtate of our knowledge in the etymology of proper names, ſeem at firſt ſight to have been *ſelected* to expoſe author's. But the reader who thinks thus, will find his great miſtake, when he comes to the names of provinces, and great towns. In

* MS of Devonſhire Pariſhes, and Hiſt. Devon.

theſe

theſe he will recogniſe the ſame fancies and abſurdities repeated in explanations; and the ſame "*general principles*" *more ſtrongly* manifeſting their truth, and demonſtrating their agreement, with the features of nature.

Dav, from *av* or *tav*, is ſtream; *er* is border, &c.; and *ton* is land or town, as ſhewn in Aſhburton.

The SEVERN.

"You will, ſays Mr. Evans, in a late tour into Wales, perhaps expect ſome account of the origin of its name; but conſider how hazardous *even to conjecture*, when the moſt able antiquaries have racked their brains in vain, and candidly owned themſelves at the moſt perfect loſs reſpecting its derivation.—Vide Camden, Lloyd, and Pennant." I ſhall therefore have occaſion to beg the reader's pardon, ſhould I fail in this attempt.

The *Severn* is derived by *Malcolm* in his antiquities, as well as by ſeveral other writers, from *ſab* Gaelic for ſtrong, or from *ſaobh* raging, and *rian* the ſea. But the conſtruction of Mr. Malcolm's own language, the

Gaelic,

Gaelic, demands in old names, that the Subſtantive ſhould precede the adjective. Now *ſab*, *ſav*, or *ſev* is water or ſtream, and *rian* the little ſea; and hence the little ſea ſtream would be a tranſlation of Ptolomy's *Sabriana*. In like manner might the *Tamiſſa* mean the little ſea, from *tamh* the ſea, and *is* a diminutive. Thus alſo as *amh*, *av*, *ov*, and *ob* may be conſidered the ſea, the *Oby* would mean the little ſea; and be ſo named to ſhew the vaſt ſize of the mouth of its ſtream, as well as of the ſtream itſelf.

General Vallancey derives the Severn from "*ſab* a diviſion, and *rann* a word of the ſame meaning," "Hence, ſays he, the Severn a boundary river." But two diviſions imply not one ſtream.

The Romans, from whom Ptolomy received the name in his geography, latinized the *u* and *v* of the Britons by *b* in various inſtances, to which our authors have not attended.—Hence the ſtream might originally be pronounced or written *Savrian* or *Saurian*. The *i* in latinizing, ſometimes inſerted by theſe people, was by the ancient Britons omitted. Thus a river in Ireland was named *Saitranus*

or *Sauran*; & the *Severn* too was moſt likely, from what follows, ſo named by the ancient inhabitants of the country.

The Welſh, after the time of the Romans, changed the Iriſh *ſ* into *h*, and called this ſtream *Havren*; in which name the *i* inſerted by the conquerors of the Britons, is ſuppreſſed. It appears therefore that the river, in the time of the Romans, might, by the natives, be written or pronounced *Savran* or *Sauran*. At what time, or by what ſteps, it became *Severn*, we need not enquire: but it is plain that the *r* in *Savran* was tranſpoſed to form *Savarn*; and from the mutability of *a* to *e*, the name became finally *Severn*.

In many words a tranſpoſition of liquid or other letters hath, from various circumſtances, taken place: thus *bryn* Welſh for hillock, is in Armoric *beru*. The Engliſh word *criſp* was formerly written, and now is at ſome places pronounced *cyrps*. The *aſp* or aſpen-*tree* was written *æps*, as ſtill pronounced. A variety of other inſtances may be found in Lhuyd's archælogia, which prove that *Savran* may have become *Severn*, from the mutation of vowels, and tranſpoſition of the *r*.

Having

Having followed this name from *Sabriana* to *Severn*, through the neceſſary ſteps, I ſhall briefly ſtate, that, independently of the *ancient* name, the reaſon of its ſpelling may be thus, much more conciſely, ſhewn: *Sev** is ſtream; and *an*, or its ſynonyme *aun* changed to *arn*, means great; and the *Sevarn*, now *Severn*, means the *great ſtream*.

The TAMES.

The word *tam* means ſtream; and the *Tames* appears from the Monk of Ravenna to have been anciently named *Tamion* or *Taimon*, that is the *great ſtream*. It was alſo named *Tameſa*, *Tameſis*, *Tamiſa*, &c.

Augments, which have hitherto been unnoticed in our old names, except in our introduction, are of *quantity*, or of *magnitude*. The firſt are ſuch as expreſs our plural numbers: the ſecond are ſuch as are applicable to large ſtreams, hills, &c. In the languages of Europe *es* is an old plural ending: but many

* In General Vallancey's tracts, inſtances of *ſeu*, *ſev*, *ſav* are ſhewn to mean water in various parts of the world.—Theſe words are derived as in our introduction, from *av*, *ev*, *ev*, &c. with *ſ* prefixed.

plural terminations have been proved in this work to be Gaelic augments and diminutives. Thus *on* in *Taimon* is an *augment:* and *es* in *Tames* may have been alſo an *augment,* or a corruption of one. On this head, however, there may be two opinions: the one ſupported by plural endings of the Welſh, Corniſh, and other languages; the other by *adjectives,* or *augmentatives* and *diminutives* of the OLD LANGUAGE of *rivers, hills,* &c.

On the one part, there will appear names neither expreſſing the properties of ſtreams, nor exhibiting often the endings of the words, in the *original* ſpeech. On the other, there will be ſhewn in the denominations of ſtreams their characters and relation, in words of the aboriginal tongue. The reaſon of things will appear on the one hand, from the ſenſe of the compound term. The impropriety on the other, from employing a general and unfit name for a ſtream, which requires a word of particular, and appropriate import.

It may not be here amiſs to remark, that *oir, hem,* or *border* has been written *uair:* and no doubt (as *a, o,* and *u* were written indiſcriminately) *air:* juſt ſo *uais,* the Gaelic for

for *noble*, &c. is written *ais* in the *Tan-ais* or *Don*: and this ending ſeems to ſhew that ſome ſuch augment was once uſed in large ſtreams inſtead of *es*.

Tam means *ſtream*; and as diminutives in *in, ett, ill, ell, er*, &c. form from analogy and languages, augments in *on, vtt, all, oll, or, ar*, &c. ſo the diminutive *is* (as *a, o*, and *u* were indiſcriminately uſed) may form *os, as*, or *us*, as augmentatives. *Os, as*, or *us*, as *s* and *t* are commutable, may have alſo come from *ott* or *ot*, which is a known augmentative poſtfix. In the Spaniſh alſo *Azo* is an augment. In the Italian *Azzo*. Ptolomy in the Tames writes it *Eſa*, perhaps for *Aſo*. Moreover *a, o*, and *u* have been commonly changed in the names of rivers to *e* and *i*: and *a* has been called from its changing ſo often to *e*, the mutable vowel in the languages of Europe. Hence the *Savran* became early the *Havren*, and ſince the *Severn*; the *Tamar* has become the *Tamer*; the *Viſtula*, *Wixel*; the *Auſur, Auſer*; the *Lupia, Lippe*; the *Larnum, Larnen*; the *Iſara, Iſere*; the *Garumna, Garone*; the *Viſorgis, Weſer*; the *Ouſe, Iſis*; the *Phaſis, Feſſo*; the *Itana*, *Eden*;

Eden; the *Oenus, Inis,* &c. Hence the *Taimon, Tamos,* &c. may have become the TAMES, and may mean the ſame as *Taimon,* the GREAT and DEEP STREAM.

The TOWY, TEIVI, and CONWY,

OR THE

TOBIUS, TUEROBIUS, and TISOBIUS.

If the Danubius be pronounced as in that article ſtated, the TOBIUS in Wales muſt anciently have been pronounced *Tou;** the TUEROBIUS or DUEROBIUS, *Duero* or *Duerou,* as a river in Portugal; the TOISOBIUS or TISOBIUS, *Tiſou.*

According to all our writers, the *Tobius* is now the *Towy,* and it is apparent, from what has already been ſaid, that the *b* in the firſt name was uſed in latinizing the word, for *u;* and if in this ſo employed, the ſame may be inferred of the other two. The *Duerou* is ſaid to be the *Teivi,* and the *Toiſou* or *Tiſou* the *Conwy.*

* Thus the *Dart,* formerly *Dur,* was written by Richard of Cirenceſter *Durius.* The lake on which *Cenia* ſtood, which muſt have been written *Cen.* was latinized *Cenius.*

Let

Let us ſee how theſe names may be rendered. The *Tou* means the ſtream. The *Duerou*, from *dour* water, and *ou* great, the great ſtream. The *Tiſou* from *is* a ſynonyme of *it*, *id*, or *ad*, water, with *t* prefixed, as at *Tiſſington*, on the river Dove, will imply the great ſtream alſo. But Towy, *Teivi*, and *Conwy* are diminutive nouns, and anſwer not to the *Tobius*, *Duerobius*, and *Toiſobius*.— Moreover it ſhould be obſerved, that of theſe rivers, the Tobius means the ſtream only, and the others the great ſtream, whilſt the Tobius is the greateſt of the three.

There are two ways of accounting for this departure from the uſual way of denominating large ſtreams: one may ariſe from corruption, on account of the Welſh uſing diminutives in ſo great a number of ſhallow ſtreams, as belong to this principality; the other from pronouncing and writing contrary to cuſtom the *u* as *i* or *y*; and in either of theſe caſes, not diſcriminating like the ancients, between their large and ſmall ſtreams.

I have imagined that the *Tuerobius* in Ptolomy is the *Towy:* but as I have taken no pains to examine this maturely, it is here mentioned

mentioned as a hint which may reſt on no good foundation.

The ALEANUS

Has been given to the Danmonii, and placed for the *Ax;* but *al* is a ſynonyme of *au*, or *av;* and *aen* or *aun* was pronounced the ſame as *on:* hence it is the *Avon* in Hamſhire.

NEWTON, NYMETON, &c.

Neu, new, and *nem,* derived from *av* water changed to *ev, em, eu,* and *ew,* with *n* prefixed, implies ſtream. We have the rivers *Nevern, Neb, Nef-in, Nem,* and *Chew. Nem* and *Nym* are ſynonymes; and *i,* and ſometimes *e,* are diminutives: hence *Nym-e-ton* will imply the little ſtream town. In the MS of Devonſhire pariſhes this is rendered *Newfoundland!* Our *Newtons* may not always imply *new* towns, as we underſtand the term. They are generally built on ſtreams, and a few of them *may be* very old ſettlements, and derived from the water near which they are built.

LEA, LEY, and LEIGH

Are *frequently* derived from *Lea* water.—Thus *Leigh-land,* a diſtrict in Somerſet, means ſtream land. *Leyton,* on the river *Lea,* is the town

town and pariſh on that ſtream. *Leighton*, on the Dee, means the ſtream town. A lake in Slapton pariſh, Devon, is called *Slapton-*LEA, which implies Slapton *lake*. And in general whenever a territory is named from a ſtream on its border, the land of the diſtrict, though not expreſſed, is underſtood. Juſt ſo when pariſhes take their names from hills, theſe only are mentioned, though the whole diſtricts are comprehended. The greater part of the pariſhes in Devon, ending in Leigh, are on ſtreams; and in doomſday book many were written without any prænomen. *Leigh* may I conceive alſo imply hill, from *Aighe* an hill, changed to *Eighe*, with *l* prefixed.

Should we examine then the names ending in Leigh, they would be found originally derived from the water or hills on which they are ſituated; but theſe in time became the denominations of the lands around, and of the villages and towns upon them. Hence we find *Ley*, *Lay*, *Lea*, or *Leigh* implying land and town; and *Lea land*, formerly water or hill land, and which lying on water or on hills, was generally untilled, became in

time explained by grafſy land, meadow ground unploughed, and fallow land.

STREET.

The word *ſtreet* is ſaid, by Mr. Whitaker and others, to come from the latin *ſtratum*, a paved way: but I perceive no reaſon for ſuppoſing that *ſtreet*, which is a name given to many of our *lanes* never paved, ſhould have been generally derived from the Roman language. In the Gaelic *ſtraid* or *ſtrait* is a STREET or LANE; and from this I conceive our word *ſtreet* is derived. In like manner *ſtream* and *ſtring* were derived perhaps originally from the Gaelic *ſreamh* and *ſreng*.

STOKE.

This is another article which exhibits a very extraordinary inſtance of our inattention in not examining the language which obtained in this kingdom before the Saxon invaſion; and of our credulity in truſting to Saxon dictionaries for terms, which theſe people appear never to have underſtood.

The word *Stoke* is always derived from the old word *Stoc*, which is rendered *Locus, Truncus,*

Francus, Caudex, Stipes. By ſome it is ſaid to imply a *village*, though in our dictionaries there is no ſuch explanation. By others it is rendered, as mentioned above, a *place*; but of what kind etymologiſts have not informed us, and the word is to this day unexplained.

Stoke in the names of places may mean *ſtream* or *hill*: the firſt may be derived from *ſiche* or *oche* water, with *ſt* prefixed as in the river *Stoke*, Cambridgeſhire. The ſecond from the Gaelic word *Stuaic*, pronounced *Stauk*, a round hill or promontory. We have in this iſland many villages and towns named *Stoke*, ſituated chiefly on water and on hills: among thoſe on ſtreams we might mention many. Of thoſe on hills, derived from *aighe* an hill, changed to *oighe*, *oiche*, with *ſt* prefixed, are Stoke, in Suffolk, near Nayland, and Stoke-Gifford, in Glouceſterſhire, near Briſtol. In Somerſet there is a pariſh named *North Stoke*: this diſtrict has an elevated point of land, called *North* STOKE *Brow*, on which is an extenſive proſpect. Now North *Stoke* Brow can mean nothing except North *Hill* Brow. But *Stoke* having been the name for *hills* and for *ſtreams*, became the appella-

tion for the *lands* and the *villages* upon them, and hence Stoke may mean village or territory, but the word is derived as above.

Mr. Whitaker, in his hiſtory of Mancheſter, ſays that Stock*port* was denominated from the woods around it. And in this inſtance the learned writer has the authority of Dr. Pryce on his ſide, who in his Corniſh vocabulary renders *Calſtoke*, on the Tamar, "*hard ſtock*" and "*hard oak!*" But *Cal* may alſo mean ſtream, and *Stoke* an hill; and theſe anſwer very appropriately to the ſituation of the place, which is on a round hill nearly ſurrounded by the river. Some uncertainty however ariſes from the words *Cal* and *Stoke*. I have mentioned that *Stoke* may mean water as well as hill: and *Cal* is a ſynonyme of *Cau* an hill.

It is now ſo many centuries ſince that the old word *Stoc*, a ſtock, root, poſt, or pillar, was firſt confounded with *Stoke*, originally a ſtream, and *Stuaic* an hill, that this attempt to explain theſe terms, and to ſuggeſt reaſonable diſtinctions, may not be eſteemed unacceptable.

BEAR,

BEAR, BERRY, BURY, &c.

Diſtricts derived names from the borders of hills and rivers: thus *Beare* is derived from *earr, ear, er, or* or *ur*, border, end, tail, head, or promontory, with *b* prefixed. We have *Beer* or *Beare*, at Seaton, ſituated on the border of the ſea; *Beerferris* and *Rockbeare*, on the borders of rivulets or ſtreams; and *Kentiſbeare* and *Ayleſbeare*, on the borders of hills.

Mr. Collinſon, in his hiſtory of Somerſet, under the head of *Beer Crocombe*, ſays "We will not conceive the name of this place to have proceeded from the ancient word *Bere*, which ſignifies *barley*, but from ſome other ſource *deeply buried* in the arcana of etymology. A ſmall ſtream ariſing in the pariſh of *Staple-Fitzpaine* runs through this pariſh, under a bridge of two arches."

The diminutives of *Bear, Ber, Bor*, and *Bur, Border*, &c. in general uſe, are *Berry* and *Bury*. Berry, when referred to the tops of hills, may be derived from *Bearradh*. *Ber* or *Bir* water, and *Barr* or *Berr* an head, *may*, in the compoſition of the names of the features of nature, be found to have diminutive endings

endings. *Burg* or *Berg* may likewiſe be written Bury; and hence ſome diſcrimination may become neceſſary in accounting for theſe names.

Berry, taken for granted as implying little top, or top, and having been found in names ſituated in bottoms, has been ſuppoſed by Kennett in his parochial antiquities, by Spelman in his gloſſary, and by ſeveral other authors, to mean *top* and *bottom!* But neither of theſe is implied in this word further than it may ſignify little top, little border, little ſtream, &c. *Berry* or *Bury* is alſo accounted a caſtle or camp, from camps of old having been formed on little tops.* Juſt ſo is *Ham* or *Hem* conſidered as a town and village, from theſe being ſituated on Hams. So alſo is *Leigh* conſidered paſture land, a town, and village, from theſe being ſituated on a *lee* or *ſtream*. Invariably the appellations for ſtream, hill, border, &c. became in time the names for the lands around and the towns upon them. We have only further to ſtate, that *Bur* has been miſtaken for *Borough*, and *Burg* for the diminutive of *Bur*.

* It may be derived from *Burgus*, a term for a fortreſs.

WORTH WORTHY.

Wy was written for *bi* little, in the names of ſeveral ſtreams. Let *w* be put for *b* in the word *Bearr* or *Bear*, border, end, &c. and it will become *Wear*. *D* and *t* were often added after *r*, as in *Dar*, which became *Dart*, a ſtream in Devon. *Wear* would in this caſe become *Weard*, and (as *or* was alſo border) *Word*, which laſtly would, as *d* was convertible to *th*, become *Wearth* or *Worth*. *Worth* or *Worde*, in Kent, is a village on the border of the ſea. *Worth*, in Devon, is an eſtate on the border of the Exe. *Worthy*, if not a corruption of *Worth*, would mean little border, or the *y* would be a diminutive to a word compounded with *Worth*. "*Worth*, ſays Camden in his Remains, anciently *Werth* and and *Weorthid*: *Alfricus* makes it *Prædium*, a poſſeſſion or farm: *Abbo* tranſlateth it a court or place: *Killianus* a fort and an iſle." Verſtegan, who comes neareſt the right meaning, ſays that *Weorth* or *Weord* is a kind of peninſula or land environed almoſt with water, not in the ſea, but in ſome river, or between two rivers." To this it may be objected that places ending in Worthy, and alſo in *Worth*, are not always on ſtreams: ſome are on the borders,

borders, ends, or declivities of hills, others on the ſea, and others again in different ſituations; but all anſwer to border, end, point, head, &c. from whence this word is derived. Thus *er* is border—*Be*WORTHY, in Devon, is pronounced *Bower*Y, *Holſ*WORTHY, *Holſ*ERY, *Bulk*WORTHY, *Bulk*ERY, &c. From hence it will be found that *err*, *er*, or *or*, border, was the root of this adjunct; and that *w* is only a prefix.

In Mr. Dickinſon's Northamptonſhire, Sir Richard Sutton ſays, that Wearth implies a river iſland, and he quotes Donawerth, on the Danube, to illuſtrate his opinion; but Donawert is not I apprehend on an iſland,* and is an inſtance which further proves what is above aſſerted.

* See Brice's Topographical Dictionary.

THE

THE

ETYMOLOGY

OF

ROMAN-BRITISH NAMES,

COMPARED WITH THE

PRESENT APPELLATIONS

OF

DISTRICTS AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS

IN

ENGLAND.

CORNWALL

HAS not been, I conceive, very correctly rendered, nor have ſeveral ſynonymous names which occur in Britanny been juſtly explained.—*Corn* in *Corn-av, Corn-ab, Corn-ou, Corn-oll* or *Corn-all,* means *Horn,* &c.; and *av, ab, au, oll.* or *all,** may imply the ſea or water. Mr. Whitaker, in his late publication, ſuppoſes, with Dr. Borlaſe and others, that Cornwall is derived from *Cornu-Gallia;* but it comes from *Corn-av* varied to *Corn-all;* and the ſyllable *all* changed to *wall* in the ſame manner as the diminutive *i* or *y,* which means little or ſhallow, is by the Welſh changed to *wy.*

The CENIUS, CENION, FAL, &c.

"Tregony ſays Mr. W. was the *very firſt* town upon any branch of that fine harbour which forms the principal pride of Cornwall; which excels all the harbours of the iſle, except Milford-Haven, for ſecurity of anchorage,

* This may alſo imply *great*; and Cornwall means, I think, the *great horn* or *corner.*

for expanſe of water, and for number of openings into it, which therefore lies like a vaſt briareus, ſtretching forth its gigantic carcaſs on every ſide and throwing out its hundred arms into the land around it.—Tregony was upon the main arm, even the denominating river; was denominated *Cenia* itſelf, whilſt the harbour was called the mouth of the Cenia: and the ſouthern road of the Romans in Cornwall terminated at this Cenia, now Tregeny, or Tregony, more properly *that* than *this*, as it is popularly entitled Treg'ney—The caſtle on the Cenia, now the Fal. *Tregony* was thus a town at a time when *Falmouth* town, when *Penryn*, when even *Truro* itſelf was not yet in contemplation for many ages; held poſſeſſion of the river Fal, with its harbour at the mouth, when it had and could have no rival; and ſo ſtood the original lord, the natural ſovereign of all."—But for the remainder of this eulogium on Tregony I muſt refer the reader to Mr. Whitaker's hiſtory of St. German's cathedral.

It is neceſſary here to ſtate that the word *Cenius* or *Cenion* means not a river in this name, as authors ſuppoſe, but is derived from

Can

Can or *Ken* a lake, and not as hitherto aſſented from *Geneu* a mouth. It is agreed that on this lake ſome town ſtood named *Cenia*. *Voliba* ſeems to be derived from the *Fal*: it means perhaps a SETTLEMENT ON THE FAL OR VOL, from *Vol* a ſtream, and *Ibh* a country, tribe, or ſettlement. *Vol* may have changed to *Fau*, and ſo *Voliba* have been ſituated on the *Fawy*. But *Fawy* is a diminutive noun, the *Fal* or *Vol* not. Here then ariſes a difficulty in placing Voliba on the Fawy, of which antiquaries are not aware.

Mr. Whitaker in the above ſuppoſes the *Fal* the denominating river of the lake; but the *Kenwyn* or the lake ſtream ſeems to have claimed the *ancient* honour. He muſt be ſenſible that the largeſt ſtream has not been always the denominating river; and that after a junction of two ſtreams, the leaſt often gives name to the collection of water.

It is plain however that the *Cenion* of Ptolomy meant the great lake or lakes; and the *Cenius* of Richard the lake. *Cenia* the town may imply the LAKE SETTLEMENT, where the ſtation was ſituated, if *ia* mean as ſtated by General Vallancey in his proſpectus. On the whole,

whole, *Cenia* muſt have been I think upon the lake below the Kenwyn, and not on the Fal.

TRURO

Has been accounted a *new* town by Corniſh Etymologiſts. The word *tre* ſeems to have ſwelled molehills to mountains; and nothing but the reſidences of Kings or of Earls can have conferred this prænomen! Truro however is ſaid to have had ancient juriſdiction over the harbour of Falmouth, as far as the black rock at its mouth. It is partly ſituated in the pariſh of Kenwin; and this part, which was the ancient town, had an old caſtle, of which the original is unknown. The pariſh of Kenwyn, or the lake ſtream, ſeems to end at the beginning of the lake, where the name *Ken* or *Cen-ius* took place. At this place ſtands Truro, forgotten as to her ancient dominion over the haven; dominion from what cauſe gained has certainly been long unknown, although by late writers it has been attributed to the reſidence of one of its Earls in this caſtle.

Dr. Borlaſe ſays that the town is named *Tre-ur-eu*, which may be the ſame as *Tri* or *Tre-ur-eau*; and may imply *the water border*

der habitation. But if *ur* come from *av, au,* or *ur* water; and *eu* or *ou* be an augment, then it may mean the great water habitation, or the habitation on the ſtreams. This name beſpeaks as much antiquity as the names of other towns.

TREGONY,*

In doomſday *Tregoni,* has a diminutive noun for its laſt two ſyllables, and is derived from *Tre* or *Tri* an habitation, and *Can* a lake, changed to *Can* and *Gon.* The *i* or *y* in this name means little or ſhallow; and the word means the habitation on the *little* or *ſhallow* lake; and not perhaps on the *Cenius* or lake: ſo that this place may not anſwer to *Cenia,* or the LAKE SETTLEMENT, if the ending in this name has not been corrupted.

SCILLY, DINSUL, SOLWAY, &c.

The name Scilly Dr. Borlaſe ſays is not ſo ſpelt in ancient deeds. He writes it *Sulleh* or *Sylleh.* The word has been loſt in ſignification, and we ſhall attempt to revive

* We have ſeveral names on the harbour of Falmouth like this: thus TREGAN on Clement's Lake; *Treganna* on Milor Creek; and TREGANION on Truro Creek.

its

its meaning. *Sull*, ſays Mr Whitaker, is *conſpicuous*, and *Dinſul* (the old name of St Michael's mount) the *conſpicuous* hill! Dr Borlaſe reckons *Sul* the ſun, and ſuppoſes *Sulleh* to mean either "the flat rocks of, or dedicated to, the ſun."

But the name I conceive is derived from *Sail* the ſea, and *Sailly* may be the *ſhallow ſea*. Dr. Borlaſe ſtates that much of the bottom of the ſea between theſe iſlands is uncovered at low water; that formerly the beds were dry land; and it is conjectured that they formerly reached even to the land's end. But ſetting aſide the conjecture, it is neceſſary to remark that *Scilly*, *Sully*, or *Sailly* is a diminutive noun; and *Sail* meaning the ſea, *Scilly*, *Sully*, or *Sailly* will imply the ſhallow ſea. Thus alſo *Solway* frith, acroſs which carriages may at low water drive, is derived from the ſame word *Sail*. *Way* or *Wy* in this name is a variation of the Gaelic *i* or *y* ſhallow, as I have proved in Welſh ſtreams: hence *Solway* implies the little or ſhallow ſea. Further we have *Solebay*, on the coaſt of Suffolk. *Sul*, *Sol*, or *Sail* then meaning ſea, *Dinſul* will imply the *ſea hill*; the *Scilly Iſlands* the *little or ſhallow ſea iſlands*.

Mr.

Mr. Whitaker however aſſerts, that Sulleh is derived, merely from the national poſſeſſors of the iſles, the Silures of Wales. "So little, ſays this learned author, does Etymology, under the guidance of good ſenſe, appear what it is in the management of the generality, a mere meteor generated by a colliſion of atoms; but a light, ſober and ſteady, a beam of the ſun reflected by the moon, and uſefully ſupplying the place of a ſtronger illumination."

But *Sulleh* or *Sully*, which is alſo written *Syll*AN in Holinſhead's chronicle, is evidently a diminutive noun, *Silur* an augmentative one, if *ur* in this name ſhould be conſidered an augment. *Ur* however I conceive in this word means *border;* and *Sil* means the ſea or water, and the ſame as *Sil* or *Sul* in *Scilly* or *Sully*. Hence the Silures of Wales are the ſea or water borderers, and conſequently *Scilly* is not derived from the Silures of Wales.

The DANMONII, DEVON, &c.

The ſynonymes *Danmonii, Damnonii, Dunmonii, Dumnonii,* &c. I muſt here analyſe.—Mr. Whitaker ſays that the term hath recently

been AFFECTED to be read *Danmonii*, and that Richard hath *falſely* formed the word; but this learned writer offers no other ground for his opinion than aſſertions, and a ſynonymous reading or two. The word *Devon* has been conſidered in the hiſtory of Devon a *Saxon* name for this diſtrict. Theſe appellations, of which no juſt etymons have been given, will be explained in their order; and *firſt* DANMON: *Dan* is water or ſtream, from *an* water, with the prefix *d*, as in the *Dane*, &c. *Fon* is land, which may be changed to *Von* and *Mon*. Otherwiſe *on* or *en* land, with *m* prefixed, will become *Mon* and *Men*, and mean as before, although from another root theſe laſt may imply hill. Hence *Danvon* or *Danmon* may be rendered the water or ſtream country. Secondly, DAMNON may be derived from *aun*, a ſynonyme of *ean* wa-water, with *d* prefixed, which would be *Daun* or *Doun*, as at *Dounham* on the Ouſe. *U* and *v* were frequently changed into *m*; thus *Diuedhi* was changed *Dimedhi*; and *Dyved* to *Dimetia*. We have ſhewn that *aon* or *on* is country; *Daunon* or *Davnon* may therefore be changed to *Damnon*, and be latinized *Damnonia*. Great are the differences of opinion

nion which ariſe on the orthography of, at beſt, doubtful words: and of the ancient names of Devon many diſquiſitions have been publiſhed to eſtabliſh which is the moſt juſt; but theſe names are eaſily proved to be ſynonymous words: *Damnonia* has been written *Dumnonia, Danmonia, Dunmonia, Domnonia*, &c. DEVON is the laſt, and conſidered the *modern* name; but this too will be found an *old* term, and a ſynonyme of the former: *Dav* or *Dev* is known to imply ſtream in *Daverton* on the Exe, and in the *Devon* or *Deven*. a ſtream in Nottinghamſhire. *On* or *en* in ſettlements or territories implies country. *Dav* and *Dev* are derived from *tamh* or *tav*, or from *amh, av*, or *ev*, the ſea or water, with *d* inſtead of *t* prefixed. *Devon* will from hence mean the water country or the ſtream country. Thus plainly and clearly do theſe terms illuſtrate each other, and prove that authors have *totally* miſtaken their import.

EXETER, EXON,

Was by the Romans named *Iſca* from *Iſc* water. The Saxons named it Exanceaſter, and Exeter is a contraction of this word.—

Iſc has become *Eſc*, and by the Saxons was written *Ex*. The addition *on* is a ſyllable which often implied territory in the names of old ſettlements; and was alſo uſed for denoting the towns upon them.

"The names of places in the Roman Britain, ſays Mr. Macpherſon in his introduction to the hiſtory of Great Britain and Ireland, however diſguiſed they may have been in the orthography of the writers of the empire, may be with great facility traced to their original meaning, in the language ſpoken to this day by the poſterity of the Gael in the northern Britain."

In a note he explains ſeveral places—thus,

"Cantium; Kent; *Canti*, end of the iſland.
"Trinobantes; *Trion-oban*, marſhy diſtrict.
"Durotriges; *Dur-treig*, the ſea tribe, the inhabitants of the coaſt of Dorſetſhire, in alluſion to their ſituation,
"Dobuni; *Dobh-buini*, living on the bank of the river; they who of old poſſeſſed the county of

of Glouceſter, alluding to their ſituation on the banks of the Severn.

Belerium; *Bel-eir*, Weſtern Rock, Cape Cornwall.

Dimætæ; *Di-mot-atta*, Inhabitants of the Southern Plain. The tribe of the Cimbri who poſſeſſed the counties of Caermarthen, Pembroke, and Cardigan.

" Ordovices; *Ord-tuavich*, Northern Mountaineers—the inhabitants of North Wales.

But Mr. Macpherſon has *mis-tranſlated* theſe examples, as the reader will perceive in the following pages.

The DUROTRIGES, DORSET, or DORSAET, the MORINI

The Durotriges have been derived by many authors from *Dur* water, and *Trig* an inhabitant,

tant, which would imply the water inhabitant! And alſo from *Dur* water, and *trigo* to abide or dwell; but I cannot direct the reader where to find *Trig*, an inhabitant, nor *trigo* to abide or dwell; and neither theſe nor Mr. Macpherſon's derivation ſeem correct. This name may be derived from *Dur* water, and *ou* or its contraction *o* (if this be not a latin termination) great, and *Traig* coaſt: and *Durotraig* will mean the great water or the ſea coaſt; *Durotriges*, dwellers on the ſea coaſt.

The word *ſet* in Dorſet and Somerſet, has been derived by authors from *ſettan*, which they render to inhabit or dwell upon: but *ſaet* in *Dorſaet* and *Somerſaet*, was derived from the Gaelic *Saod*, a tract or diſtrict.—Hence *Dur* in *Durotraig* was changed to *Dor* in *Dorſaet*; and *Saet* or *Saod*, a tract, was changed for *Traig* coaſt. Thus are the names ſynonymes, and the evident meaning of each elucidates the import of the other, ſo as to leave no doubt of their derivations.

The people of this country were alſo named *Morini*, from *Mor* the ſea, and *in* a diminutive; or *In* a country. Hence the *Morini* were the dwellers on the little ſea or the channel; or dwellers on the ſea country.—

The

The *Morini* of the Continent, oppoſite Dover, ſeem to favour the firſt interpretation.

DURNOVARIA, DURINUM, or DORCHESTER.

Durnovaria has been rendered "a paſſage over the water, or the river *Varia*," which ſome authors ſuppoſe the ancient name of the Frome. Skinner thinks *Varia* a ford or a bridge: tradition aſcribes the name to King Dorn; but the etymology accounted the moſt rational is from *Varia*, accounted the *Frome*, and a contraction of *Durnium* or *Dunium*. All theſe, like other derivations which I ſhall quote, are evidently the genuine offſprings of fancy. Mr. Baxter thinks that *Dunium* in Ptolomy was *Maiden-Caſtle*, and that *Durnovaria* was the town.

Durinum comes from *Dur* water, and *In* uſed for border, land, or town. *Varia*, in Durnovaria, means the ſame as *In*, and is derived from *Uair*, *Vair*, or *Var*, border. *Durn* may come from *Don* or *Dun* varied to *Doun* or *Duun*, and, to prevent the claſhing of vowels, and for ſound, changed to *Dorn* or *Durn*. The *o* is perhaps a Roman termination; and *Dorn* or *Durn* may imply hill, or be a ſynonyme

nyme of *Dur* in *Durinum*; and hence *Durnovaria* may imply the hill or water border town.

MORIDUNUM and MARIDUNUM.

On the ſouthern end of *Black-Down*, three miles weſt of Honiton, is a magnificent ſtation, named Hembury Fort. *Hembury* is derived from *Hem* or *Ham* border, and *Bury* a camp or caſtle, and may imply the camp border. It has alſo been named *Henbury*, and rendered the *Old Fort*; but this is too nearly allied to the old derivation of *Hennock*.

It has been ſuggeſted that this ſtation, and not Seaton, is the Moridunum of the ancients, but a proof from its etymology has not been attempted. Moridunum is tranſlated by our writers *Seaton*; and it is aſſerted that this word is the ſame in the Britiſh that *Sea-ton* is in Engliſh, "*a town on an hill by the ſea.*"—At preſent I will omit the enquiry whether it is Britiſh or not: *Mur* is ſaid to be the general reading in MSS according to the Iter Antononi by Gale. And all towns ending in *Dunum* or *Tunum*, according to Sammes, are of high ſituation. But *Dun* means a fortreſs as well as a hill, and therefore Seaton, which

is

is not on an hill, might in reſpect to poſition only have anſwered to the name. Seaton is however twenty-five Roman miles from Iſca Danmoniorum, which is ten miles farther than the itineraries of Richard of Cirenceſter, and Antoninus aſſign it: it is ſituated underneath an hill, and without ſufficient remains to denote the former greatneſs of a Roman ſtation.

Hembury-Fort, inſtead of twenty-five miles, is, on the contrary, exactly fifteen Roman miles as mentioned in the itineraries. *Mor* generally implies *More*, as in Moreton, or *Mor*, as in ſeveral places on ſtreams named *Morton*: this laſt is often derived from *av* or *au* water, changed to *ou* and *or*, with *m* prefixed, as mentioned in Polemartin. Beneath Moridunum, and from the ſide of this hill, riſes the river *Tale*; and not far beneath runs the river Otter.

On the border of *Maridunum*, in Wales, ran the *Tobius*. But *Mur* being the general reading in Moridunum, and this being Gaelic for a bulwark, the name *may* be rendered Caſtle Hill. The ſequel however will ſhew that *Mor* is the right orthography; and from

what has been ſtated, this as well as *Maridu-num* may rather be tranſlated the *ſtream, hill,* or *fortreſs.* Both theſe places are twelve miles from the ſea: *Mor,* the Welſh for ſea, is conſequently not applicable; nor is *Du-num* from this langnage, but from the Gaelic. The Romans therefore changed not the *v* in *Caer-Vyrdhin* (which the Welſh call this city) as Camden ſuppoſes; but the people of the laſt nation changed the *m* into *v,* and *dun* into *dhin* or *din,* after they had perhaps driven the Gaelic Celtæ from the country to which they had given names. And it appears that when the Romans latinized *Mardun* in Wales, that the preſent race had not changed theſe words, if they had taken poſſeſſion of the country.

Hitherto we have not conſidered the words *Black Down,* which are uſually rendered *Black* or *bleak* Down, and of which we have no correct etymon. This hill is ſtill called *Blaigdon,* at a high part of it which lies in Somerſet. The name is derived from the root, *Aighe* an hill: the *g* in this name was not aſpirated, and to *aig, d* was added in the ſame manner as it was after *l* in *Hal-d-on.*— *On* may be an augment, or *Don* may imply country,

country, from *on* land, with the prefix *d;* and in many caſes it will be difficult to decide which of theſe the ending in *on* does imply; but as *on* in the Shannon is evidently an augment, ſo I conceive it is the ſame in ſingle high hills; but in a long range of high land it may imply *country:* thus *Hal-don* may imply hill land; and *Pol-don,* in Somerſet, may very appropriately for its ancient ſituation imply head land. Moreover *Don* may become *Doun* and *Down;* and this term which has been rendered "a plain on the top of an hill," but which is found attached to tracts of country on levels and even in bottoms, means *land* only; and originally *Don* and *Ton,* and *Down* and *Town,* were of the ſame import.

Of *Don* implying land I have given two inſtances; of *Ton* originally implying the ſame, I ſhall ſelect one. Near the border of Dartmoor, in the pariſh of Chagford, there is an hill called *Milliton,* which was never inhabited: it is derived from *Meall* an hill, and *Ton* land, and the name means the *land* of the little hill; or the little hill *land.* Hence then *Blaigdon,* now *Black Down,* may imply the *great hill,* or the hill country.

This land overlooks the great eaſtern roads from Saliſbury, Shafteſbury, Bath, Briſtol, &c. to Exeter. The old road from Taunton to Exeter ran through it; and it was the fitteſt ground for a great ſtation, and to ſecure the country in this diſtrict.

That this part of the hill had an ancient name or names no perſon will deny; and time which deſtroys the remembrance and traces of many things hath not yet left us without the *old* appellation. An extenſive manor, ſays Mr. Chapple, quoted in the hiſtory of Devon, in the pariſh of Peahembury, was held by Bernard Wright, Eſq. in 1772, named "*Cox Pitt** *Manor* and MORDEN." The laſt of which, whether now containing this fortreſs, or ſeparated by time from it, evidently refers to the hill in queſtion; and this with the diſtance from Exeter, its noble remains, its agreement with *Caermarthen*, and other circumſtances, prove, as nearly as at this day, evidence from names, and other circumſtances can be expected to evince, that *Hembury Fort* is the Moridunum of the ancients.

* *Cox Pitt* ſeems to imply the ſtream, valley, or bottom.

The

The BELGÆ, SOMERSET, HAMSHIRE, WILTSHIRE.

The word *Belgæ* has not been underſtood. It has been ſuppoſed to come from *Belke* Anger: from *Pel* remote, and many other inapplicable terms. A part of Belgia was named *Sumerſaet*, of which we find no juſt etymon. *Somerſet* has been ſaid to be derived from the town of Somerton; and this from the æſtival pleaſantneſs of its ſituation, air, &c. I ſhall juſt mention ſuch derivations, and proceed to conſider the rational import of the word. We have many places near fords and ſtreams which have the prænomen *Somer* or *Sumer*. We have the river *Sim-en* in Dorſet, and *Sam-fords* on ſtreams in every part of the kingdom. *Sam* or *Sum* comes from *amh*, *am*, or *um*, the ſea or water (as does *um* in Northumberland), with *ſ* prefixed; *er* is border, & *Saet* or *Set* as mentioned in Dorſet: the name will then imply the water border diſtrict. In early times no land in England was more, if ſo much, interſected by the ſea as this country. Hence if *Bel* mean water, as in the river *Bel-an*, in Weſtmoreland; or as *Bel*, in *Belgia*, the old name of Holland and the Netherlands; and if *ge* imply

ply earth or land, this country would as appropriately mean water land as any diſtrict in England. The ſame may be ſaid of that part of Belgia which lies on the coaſt of Hamſhire, if that were a part. Notwithſtanding then the opinion of authors, the Belgæ was, from the natural ſituation of this country, an appropriate name for the people of the diſtrict. *Bel* in Belgia was tranſlated *Hol* in Holland; and *Hol* is derived from *av* changed to *ou* and *ol* water. *Bel* alſo comes from *au, al, el,* with *b* prefixed. *Bile* however being border, the natives (who had loſt many words originally applied to the features of nature) tranſlated the word *Bel* by *er* in Somerſet, and by *Ham* in Hamſhire, or Hamtunſhire. But in *Holland* Lincolnſhire there is a wapentake, named *Aveland,* which is a ſynonyme of Holland; and *Aveland* we cannot miſtake in rendering *water land:* hence *Bel* implied not border in Belgæ; but this being a ſyllable not uſed in common language, and the language of rivers, &c. being loſt, it was concluded, as *Bile* was the neareſt common word, that *Bel* meant border; and hence *er* was adopted in Somerſet. It may however be aſſerted that they tranſlated *Bel* by *um,* and added

added *er* or border: but this could not be, for had they thus rendered the word in Somerſet, they would have ſo tranſlated it in Hamſhire, for *Ham* in this name is the ſame as *er* in that; beſides *um* is derived from *av* or *ab* as in the Abus or Humber.

In the county of Somerſet, ſome of the *Cangii* are ſuppoſed to have been ſeated: theſe are by Mr. Whitaker and other authors called woodlanders, herdſmen, &c.; and the word is ſuppoſed to be derived from *Ceann* a head, which it is aſſerted, from what authority I know not, to mean alſo a *wood*. But it will be found that theſe people were *dwellers on lakes, ſtreams, or arms of the ſea;* and that the word was derived from *Can* a lake: it was often adopted in old names, and has never by our etymologiſts been juſtly rendered.

Wiltſhire, or *Wiltunſhire*, is ſuppoſed to have been derived from *Wilton*, formerly its principal town, ſituated on the river *Willy*, which means little ſtream.

SALISBURY.

In *Salop* we find *Sal* to mean hill, *is* is a diminutive, and *Bury* implies camp, &c.—

The

The old name was *Sorbiodunum: Sal* or *Sol*, and *Sar* or *Sor* imply the ſame; and *bi* little is the ſame as *is*. *Dun* implies a fort or camp. The *old* town was on a little hill.—When the ſee and the inhabitants were removed, they named the *new* town *New Saliſbury*; but the ſituation happened very unfortunate for the name—the *new little hill* is a *bottom!*

BRISTOL, in which are included the Derivations of STOL and STOW.

Briſtol is ſaid in Mr. Barrett's hiſtory of this city, to have been named "*Caer Oder nante Badon.*" "A name, ſays this induſtrious collector, that has puzzled all antiquaries to account for. If one might be allowed to gueſs, he continues, the *city* ODER, in the vale of Bath, might not improbably have been written at firſt *city* OSTER; and by dropping the ſibilant letter *ſ*, not unuſual among the Britons after the French, the name *Oder* (from *Oſter*) was by them formed, and ſo OSTORIUS, *the Roman Proprætor, may have dignified our city with his name.*"

But the words *Caer Oder nante Badon* ſeem not to imply what Mr. B. here imagined.—

We

We have in Germany the river *Oder*. *Ad* or *od* is water, *er* may imply great or border, and *Caer Oder nante Badon* may be rendered *great water*, or the *water border city, in the valley of Bath*.

Caer Brito, Brite, or *Briton* was another name of this city, the explanation of which Mr. B. ſeems not better to have underſtood. It appears to imply nearly the ſame as the laſt. *Br* has been proved a prefix only in the names of rivers by the chapter on poſtfixes. *Od, ed, id,* or which is the ſame, *ot, et, it* are ſynonymes of water, and derived from *ad*. We had anciently a river named the *Ituna*, which is now the *Eden*; the *Idumanus*, &c. We have at preſent the *Idel*, the *Ide*, the *Oder*, the *Otter*, &c. To *Id* we have *Br* prefixed in *Bridſtow*, on the Wye—in *Bridport*—in the river *Bride*, or as ſome call it the *Brit*—in *Briddiſtow*, &c. Laſtly, there is in Suffolk the river *Bretten*, at the head of which is *Brettenham*, which as *e* and *i* were formerly written for each other, is the ſame as *Britten*. But this is a ſmall ſtream from its ending in *en*, whilſt the *Avon* is a large one, and from its augmentative ending may have been named

gender *n* is pronounced as *gn*." Hence *Ren* would be pronounced and written *Regn*.— Thus the river *Tain* or *Ten*, now the *Teign* and *Teing*, was in the Saxon chronicle written *Tegn*: hence the *Regni* may imply dwellers on the water.

But another method may be employed for elucidating this name. *Rian* is ſaid to mean the ſea: I ſhould ſuſpect *Li* the ſea to be changed into *Ri*, and that *Rian* or *Rien* meant the *little* ſea, inſtead of ſea only, as mentioned in Gaelic dictionaries. And accordingly I find it uſed for a branch of the ocean in *Lough Rian* in Scotland. *An* or *en* then in this name may be a diminutive, and *Rian* or *Rien* by the above may have been pronounced and written *Reign* or *Regn*.— The Regni may therefore have implied *inhabitants of the little ſea or channel*.

KENT, or CANTIUM, and CANTERBURY,

Mr. O'Halloran derives from *Ceann-tir*, and refers to the chief town of this county for a confirmation of the truth of his opinion.— But to *Ceann* an head, a *t* is often added; and hence *Ceant*, *Kant*, or *Kent* may mean head. Further, we have ſeen that *Cant* may

mean

mean ſtream, *Er* implies border, and *Bury* a fortreſs: and hence CANTERBURY may mean the ſtream border town—which is nearly the import of the Roman Britiſh name *Durovernia*. *Cant-wara-byrg*, an old name which comes from *Cant* a ſtream; *Wara* border (derived from *er* or *ar*, with *w* prefixed), and *Byrg* a fortreſs or town; is rendered by our authors, the *Kentiſh mens' city*: and *Cant-guar-laudt*, which implies the ~~*water*~~ *head border land*, is ſaid to mean the *Kentiſh mens' land*.

ROCHESTER

Has been miſtaken in the etymology of its ancient name *Durobrivæ*—the laſt ſyllable of which authors have rendered bridge: but in what language *Briv* or *Briva* will imply a bridge, ſome difficulty will be found in aſcertaining. A elebrated writer has therefore ſuppoſed, although he has not ſhewn, that it means town. *V* was often changed to *m*; *Briv* may therefore be rendered *Brim*, and may imply as the Engliſh word of the ſame name. Moreover the Gaelic term *Brigch*, according to Lhuyd, is border; and he has ſhewn that *ch* was ſometimes by the Romans changed to *v*: hence *Briv* may imply brim

or

or border. The names for land, border, &c. were the names of the ſettlements upon them; and hence *Briv* may have implied town.—The Saxons named this place *Hrove Ceaſter* and *Rove-Ceaſter*. *Rove* may be derived from *av* or *ov* water, with the prefix *hr* or *r*, which has been proved a prefix in *Riv-er*, and in other names of ſtreams. *Ro* in Rocheſter is a contraction of *Rove*.

The TRINOBANTES

Have been ſuppoſed to mean *the city of the new comers* in Mr. Whitaker's Mancheſter; in which explanation the city ſeems more to be conſidered than the country, or its inhabitants. In the Cambrian Regiſter therefore the word *Tranovant* is ſaid to mean the country beyond the ſtreams, and from this the author ſuppoſes the word Trinobantes to be derived. But neither will this agree with the old mode of naming places. We had the Trinius,* now the *Tern* among the Cornavii; and *Trin* or *Tren* means ſtream, as in this river, or as in the *Trent*, formerly *Tren*. *O*, if not a Latin termination, may be an augment, and *Fonn* and *Vonn* imply land or

* See Baxter's Gloſſary.

country;

country; *Trinovonn*, *Trinovann*, or *Trinovant* will therefore imply the great ſtream country. The *Trinobantes*, inhabitants of this country.

LONDON.

Below the ground whereon Ludgate was ſituated, lies *Fleet Ditch*. *Lud* or *Lod* is Gaelic for a pond; and this word alſo denotes the ſtream which runs through this ditch.—Authors however aſſert that *King Lud* changed the name of this city, and built the gate: Geoffery, of Monmouth, ſtates, that he altered the old name of *Troynovant* to *Lundain*, or *Lud's Town*, notwithſtanding he was ſtoutly oppoſed herein by Nennius: and *Sammes*, in examining *Verſtegan*, exhorts us to "let the King enjoy the honour of that ſtructure, whoſe very mute ſtatue, then on the gate, ſeemed to call out againſt thoſe who would deprive him of it." The laſt author would not admit that Ludgate took its denomination from Lud, and aſſerted that the final ſyllable was not Britiſh, but Saxon.

It is the lot of writers to err, but Mr. Sammes taking for granted what his diſloyal antagoniſt had advanced, found no reſource

for

for refuting him, but by reference to the ſtatue! The word *Lud*, however, may imply a pond, pool, ditch, and even water or ſtream; and from the Gaelic word *Geata*, gate is alſo derived; and hence *Lud* and *Gate* were originally terms of the oldeſt Britiſh language.

Other derivations which have been given for London, are from *Luna*, a name of Diana—from *Lindus*, a city of Rhodes—from *Lugdus*, a Britiſh Prince—from *Llan-Dyn*, the temple of Diana—from *Lundain*, the Tames bank town—from *Llhwn*, a wood, and *Dinas*, a town—from *Lhong*, a ſhip, and *Dinas*, a town—and from *Lon*, a plain, and *Don*, an hill. Every writer on London exhibits a new etymon, and the reader will expect me to follow cuſtom.

Two derivations of this name naturally ariſe from its ſituation, although a rational one has not even to this day been attempted.

FIRST,

Lon may be derived from *on*, a ſynonyme of *an* water, with *l* prefixed: thus we have the river *Lon* or *Lone*. This letter *l* has been proved a ſervile, and in the Hebrew is accounted

counted a prepoſition implying *upon*, &c. but in ſtreams, it ſeems like other prefixes, uſed only to form proper names. *Lon* then will mean *ſtream*: *D* may have been added to ſtrengthen the ſound of the firſt ſyllable, or taken as a prefix to *on* territory, for better connecting the compound word; *London* will mean, in either caſe, the ſtream territory.

SECONDLY,

Lon may otherwiſe, from the Gaelic, imply a *marſh* or *lake*, and *Dun* now *Don*, a faſtneſs, fortreſs, or land; and *Londun* or *London* may mean the marſh or lake fortreſs, or land.

Cæſar, in his ſecond expedition into Britain, firſt paſſed the Tames. Speaking of his place of paſſage, and of this river, he uſes theſe remarkable words:—"It is fordable only in ONE PLACE,* and that with *great difficulty*."—Upon the ſituation of this ford modern authors diſagree; Camden, and ſome other writers, ſuppoſe it to have been at *Cowy Stakes*: *Maitland* oppoſite the higher ſide of Chelſea hoſpital.

* Duncan's Cæſar.

From the preſent depth of the river at Chelſea, no deciſive argument can be drawn; for the beds of rivers vary from floods, from embankments, which have particularly taken place on this very part of the ſtream, and from other cauſes. Moreover no evidences, either in ancient or modern times, are recorded, that ſtakes in the ſides or in the bottom of the river, mentioned by Cæſar, have ever been produced in favour of *Chelſea.*

From tradition not more light is often diſcovered; *but names of places out-live ages.*—Bede, ſpeaking on the ſubject of *Cowy Stakes,* ſays "the footſteps whereof (the ſtakes) are ſeen to this day; and it appears on the view that each of them is as thick as a man's thigh, and that being ſoldered with lead, they ſtick to the bottom of the river immoveable."

The word *Cowy* throws more light on the ſubject. The word comes from *cov* water, changed to *ou,* with *c* prefixed. We have the *Cov-er* a river in Yorkſhire; the *Cow-en,* a ſtream in Caermarthenſhire; and the river *Cowy* in Scotland, on which *ſhallow ſtream* the town of *Cowy* ſtands. The *i* or *y* is a diminutive,

minutive, and *Cowy Stakes* imply the *ſhallow water ſtakes.*

After paſſing *Cowy Stakes,* the conqueror began his march, of which we have no certain accounts, except that it was through the dominions of Caſſivellanus, on the north of the Tames. The advances of his cavalry were ſharply conteſted, and this part of his army was finally ordered to accompany the legions. The Trinobantes and other nations, *in the mean time,* ſubmitted; and from theſe Cæſar found that he was not far from Caſſivellanus's town. "A *town,* we are informed in the commentaries among the Britons, was nothing but *a thick wood fortified with a ditch and rampart,* to ſerve as *a place of retreat* againſt the incurſions of enemies." It contained cabins for the garriſon, and erections for its cattle. The country is repreſented as *full of houſes,* built after the manner of the Gauls*.

"*Surrounded with woods and marſhes*" lay the chief of the Britiſh fortreſſes. Its ſituation, though diſputed, is ſuppoſed to have

* Cæſar's Commentaries.

been at *Camulodunum* or *Malden*† "Camulodunum is accounted, by the hiſtorian of Mancheſter, merely the title of a camp.—*Camulus* being one of the Britiſh denominations for *Mars*, and DUNUM ſignifying a TOWN." For proofs we are referred to Camden, Cæſar, and Gruter. Theſe are authorities we wiſh not to conteſt; but Camden ſpeaks not ſo deciſively. "I dare not venture, he ſtates, to ſay that this place was ſo called from the god Camulus; and yet that Mars was worſhipped under this name appears from an old ſtone at Rome, in the houſe of the Colloti, and from altars that have been found with this inſcription—CAMULO DEO SANCTO ET FORTISSIMO."

That the Britons ſhould have given this camp or town the name of *Camulus* or *Mars*, is I conceive improbable; for I find no town, ſettlement, or fortreſs in Britain, of *which I have examined the etymology*, (although ſome there may be) dedicated by theſe people to a Pagan deity; but named from its ſituation on ſtreams, hills, plains, &c.

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Camalldun,

Camalldun, Camolldun, or *Camulldun* might have been the name, and *Camu,* which is found on old coins, the *abbreviation* of *Camull* as *Brito* was of *Briton.** And this being ſo nearly like the Roman *Camulus,* might alſo be ſo written by that people. But *Camall, Camoll,* or *Camull* means *great ſtream,* from *Cam* a *ſtream,* and *all, oll,* or *ull, great;* and *Dun* an *hill, fortreſs,* or *town.* And this might appropriately anſwer to Colcheſter or Malden.

It may however be inſiſted that this was a *Roman colony,* and that it received a *Roman name.* But this is giving up the *Britiſh* appellation and the fortreſs altogether: and as I cannot find that *Camulus* was originally a *Britiſh* denomination for *Mars,* I ſubmit to better judges the name *Camulodunum.*

The *ancient ſcite* of London was about 19 miles from *Cowy Stakes.* From Maitland's deſcription of the OLD *foundation* of this city (which was very low) to which I refer my readers, and from the natural ſituation of the grounds around, it appears to have been *ſur-*

* See word *Briſtol.*

rounded

rounded with marſhes, which in theſe and later times were overgrown with *woods*; and LON, the firſt part of the name, *if* reſtricted to the interpretation of MARSH, may corroborate it. Would an inhabitant on the banks of the Tames conceive it adviſeable in ſuch caſe to travel 60 or 70 miles to Camulodunum, ſituated ON AN EMINENCE, were he informed the place he ſearched for was at a *ſmall* diſtance, and *ſtrongly fortified with woods and marſhes*, and that the *name* implied the *marſh fortreſs*?

But it ſeems that when Claudius conquered this country, the capital was known to be at *Camulodunum*; and therefore *Colcheſter* or *Malden* was the fortreſs taken by Cæſar!—But this is not a very happy concluſion: for if *London* or the *marſh fortreſs* were taken and deſtroyed by *Cæſar*, the inhabitants would naturally fly to other faſtneſſes, and erect their ſtandards without the reach of the enemy.

Being beat from their *marſh*, ſituated wherever this may have been, they retired to an *hill*; and here finding themſelves ſafe, they continued for ſome time; but the Britons being conquered, and brought into ſubjection by Claudius, and the Romans finding the

the *Tames* the ſafeſt harbour, and this place the beſt ſtation for commerce, they invited inhabitants to ſettle on this ſpot. In a few years *London* is ſaid to have become the *principal* ſettlement. Thus rapidly might their reſpect for an *old* fortreſs increaſe the population of the *new* town.

To conclude, the reader will conſult Cæſar, examine his operations on the north of the Tames, and compare with theſe the diſtance of *Cowy Stakes* from *London*. Should his marches be conſidered to have been directed in a *ſtraight line*, and to have extended to a greater diſtance than this, ſome other ſpot muſt claim the honour of our ancient fortreſs. In favour of this town we have given all that can conſiſtently be urged; and have only further to remark, that it ſeems to bear a denomination which carries its antiquity to the *firſt* naming of habitations on ſtreams, and much beyond the modern accounts of its foundation.

From what has been ſaid in the foregoing pages, we find *Camall*, *Camoll*, and *Camull* meant *great ſtream*; and we know that the *Camel*, otherwiſe the *Alan*, a river in Cornwall,

wall, implies the *little ſtream*; and that *el* is generally a diminutive.

"In Engliſh ſome ſubſtantives have the form of diminutives; but theſe are not many, and are formed by adding the terminations *kin*, *ling*, *ing*, *ock*, [redacted] and *el*, and the like; as lamb, lambkin; gooſe, goſling; duck, duckling; hill, hillock; [redacted]; cock, cockerel, &c." Hence it ſeems to follow, that the *broad* vowels *generally* conveyed the idea of a *great* ſtream, and the *narrow* ones, at leaſt in *moſt* caſes, that of a *ſmall* one.—But as *l* and *r* have been proved commutable, *ar*, *or*, or *ur* were ſubſtituted for *all*, *oll*, or *ull*:* and *er* and *ir*, for *ell* and *ill*. But the endings of ſtreams being corrupted from time, *er* is ſubſtituted for *ar* in the *Tamar*, now written *Tamer*; *en* for *un* in the *Ituna*, now the *Eden*; *en* or *ern* for *an* in the *Sabriana*,

* I have often conceived that *er*, *ur*, &c. border, may in old names be changed to *el*, *ul*, &c.; but this I only mention, without daring to determine for myſelf. I have found them changed in ſtreams, where a very great variety required the change; but for the word border, no neceſſity for ſuch variation may have exiſted; although Camuldunum might be very well explained by the *ſtream border hill*. The ſame may be ſaid of *ou* as of *ol* or *ul*.

now

now the *Severn*. Even *er* in Gaelic dictionaries ſeems to have loſt its analogy; and is explained by *great*, whilſt from the ſize of ſome ſtreams (if *er* mean not in them border) it evidently implies little.

On the contrary, *an* rendered little in many of our rivers, was I conceive written originally *en*; thus the *Loman*, a river in Devon, was anciently written *Lomen*; *Rhyn*, in the Corniſh, was a hill, and *Rhynen* a hillock; and *an*, *on*, or *un*, which mean *great*, *noble*, &c. were in old times attached to large rivers, and uſed as augmentatives. Hence ſome confuſion ariſes from not preſerving analogy. But as this takes place more or leſs in all languages, it is no wonder it ſhould have obtained in the names of rivers, whoſe principles have been, at leaſt partly unknown, for more than 2000 years.

Under the article *Huiccii* I ſhall explain ſuch poſtfixes in the endings of ſtreams, as have not already been ſpoken of.

COLCHESTER.

The Derivation of this Town is ſuppoſed to come either from *Col* in *Colonia Camulo-*

dunum, or from the River Colne. In the Saxon Chronicle, to which the Reader muſt not always truſt, the ſtream is named the *Colne*, and the city *Colne-ceaſter*.

[The following ſhould have been inſerted after *Hamſhire* or *Hamtunſhire*, the border land diſtrict.]

VECTIS, VECTA, MICTIS, ICTIS, and WIGHT.

Names whoſe etymologies have ſo long been ſought for in vain, ſhould be touched with trembling rather than fearleſs hands; but I have undertaken the taſk, and muſt not deſiſt:

"*Wight* is generally ſuppoſed to come from *Guith*, a *breach* or *diviſion* alluding to the *ſuppoſed* ſeparation of this iſland from the main land." "Or from its Latin appellation *Vectis*, a word ſignifying a *bar* or *bolt*!"*

But *Vectis* is derived from *Fich* or *Vich* a country, an etymon not hitherto mentioned. After *n* we have ſhewn that *d* and *t* are often

* Worſley's Iſle of Wight. Mr. Whitaker alſo derives it from *Guiſt* or *Guith*, divorced or ſeparated: *Guiſt-is* will conſequently be the little ſeparated!

ſubjoined

ſubjoined to ſtrengthen the ſound of a ſyllable: after *r* in the *Dowrowy*, and in the *Darry*, they were added in the ſame manner; after *Vich* or *Vic* the *t* was added in the like way: thus the Gaelic word *Direach* is now in Engliſh written *Direct*, and means ſtraight, &c. *Is*, is moſt probably a diminutive; although it may mean *water*, and come from *ad*, *at*, *as*, as in the introduction. Hence *Vectis* or *Vichtis* will mean the *little territory*, &c.

Vecta, *Vectan*, or *Vectau* means alſo the little or water territory, from *au* water, and *Vect* as before; or from *Vect*, and *a* or *an little*.

Mictis is the ſame as *Victis*—the *m* and *v* are convertible.

Ictis—*Ich* is the root of *Vich*, *Eich*, and *Mich*, as it is of *Crich*, *Toich*, and *Bich*, which alſo mean *territory*, *country*, &c. *Ictis* implies therefore the *little territory* or *water land*.

Wight comes from *Vicht* or *Wicht*: for as *c* and *g* are convertible, *Wicht* and *Wight* were written for each other.

WINCHESTER, formerly VENTA BELGARUM.

Mr. Whitaker ſays that the proper Belgæ had Wincheſter for their *Venta* or *head* town. Mr. Pegge, in the firſt vol. of the Archæologia, imagined that *Venta Belgarum*, *North* and *South Winfield*, and other places, were named from the culture of the vine in Britain. But it ſeems evident from the antiquity of the appellation, that theſe names were given before vines were planted in this kingdom; and as Dr. Muſgrave cited by Mr. P. ſuppoſed the etymon of *Venta* had not been aſcertained, I will endeavour to ſupply this defect.

This town is ſituated "on the weſtern declivity, and bottom of a hill, by the river *Itchen*." In Camden's Britannia this ſtream is alſo called *Alre*, from its running through *Alresford*: in which inſtance the laſt town is ſuppoſed (how truly I know not) to have taken its name from the ſtream. From the ſame and other reaſons, I ſuppoſe *Venta* may have been derived from the river which runs by it. *Itchen* is a word which comes from *Ich* water, and *en* a diminutive. We have found *d* or *t* often added after *n*; *Uan*, a ſynonyme

nonyme of *an* or *ean* water, changed to *Van*, will become *Vand*, as in the *Vand-el*. And *Uen* or *Ven* will become *Vent*, the name of a ſtream in Cumberland. We had Iſca Silurum, Iſca Danmoniorum, Venta Silurum, Venta Belgarum, and Venta Icenorum, the laſt of theſe on the WENT *ſum* or WENT *ſeamh*. The *three* laſt are on ſmall ſtreams, the two firſt not; and therefore, as *a* implies hill, and theſe places lie on hills, the terms *Iſca* and *Venta* may imply ſtream hill: but as *a* may be a contraction of *an*, *on*, or *aon*, country or territory, the ſtream territory or ſettlement.

BERKSHIRE.

Juſt as appropriately as the foregoing names has Berkſhire been explained; and in this ſtate, our ignorance of the derivations of the proper names, not only of counties, but of all the towns, rivers, hills, vallies, and plains around us, proclaims the moſt aſtoniſhing indifference of mankind, to the examination of the names of things, which lie every day before them, which time ever witneſſed.

"*Berkſhire*, ſays an author, was written in the moſt early annals *Bear wucſhire*; the Engliſh Saxons afterwards wrote it *Berroc ſcyre*, from

been at *Camulodunum* or *Malden*† "Camulodunum is accounted, by the hiſtorian of Mancheſter, merely the title of a camp.—*Camulus* being one of the Britiſh denominations for *Mars*, and DUNUM ſignifying a TOWN." For proofs we are referred to Camden, Cæſar, and Gruter. Theſe are authorities we wiſh not to conteſt; but Camden ſpeaks not ſo deciſively. "I dare not venture, he ſtates, to ſay that this place was ſo called from the god Camulus; and yet that Mars was worſhipped under this name appears from an old ſtone at Rome, in the houſe of the Colloti, and from altars that have been found with this inſcription—CAMULO DEO SANCTO ET FORTISSIMO."

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* See word *Briſtol.*

rounded

from whence the preſent name of Berkſhire is immediately derived. Some, ſays he, have ſuppoſed this name to have been originally derived from that of a wood which produced great quantities of box, named *Beroke* or *Burroc;* others imagine the county took its name from a diſbarked or *bare oak* in the foreſt of Windſor, to which the inhabitants uſed to reſort in times of danger, and conſult about public affairs." I might tranſcribe ſuch ſtories without end, in the derivations of names in this and every other diſtrict: but I muſt confine myſelf to few inſtances for elucidating my ſubject.

"The Rhemi of Gaul, in the neighbourhood of Bibrax, coming over *in a colony* to Britain, ſays Mr. Whitaker, and ſettling in the eaſtern parts of Berkſhire, conſtructed the new city of Bibracte, and formed the new tribe of the Bibroces!" This reader is an example, of *one* of the many paſſages which we *conſtantly* encounter, and where hiſtoric truth is violated.

Berkſhire is a narrow county, lying in its greateſt extent on the border of the Tames from eaſt to weſt. *Bir* or *Ber* is water; *Oc*,

or

or *Wuc* in this, as well as in ſeveral other names of places, which will be explained, means territory; and the word implies the water or ſtream territory.

The people of this country were named Bibroci. *B*, to avoid the claſhing of vowels, was written by the Romans for *u*; Bibroci may therefore be read *Biuroci*, from which the name in the Saxon annals is immediately derived. And as *Bior* and *Biur* is water, and *oc*, *uc*, &c. is territory or border land, the *Bibroci* were the dwellers on the water, or ſtream territory. Thus were theſe people evidently named from the natural ſituation of their land, and derived not their appellation from being deſcendants of a foreign colony. We ſhall ſhew the ſame in every diſtrict of the kingdom.

READING, Berks,

Is derived perhaps as the river *Read*, in Northumberland: its root is *ad* or *ead*, with *r* prefixed. *In* implies land, country, or town. *Ing* is ſaid by General Vallancy to imply a corner; but in this ſyllable *g* is added to make *n* a heavy conſonant.

WINDSOR,

WINDSOR, Berks,

In the Saxon chronicle named *Windleſofra*, *Windleſoure*, and *Windleſora*, has in Norman times been written *Windleſhora*, &c. This name is, by antiquaries, rendered *Winding ſhore*. Even our great poet, in his Windſor Foreſt, thus expreſſes himſelf:

"Oh would'ſt thou ſing what Heroes Windſor bore,
What Kings firſt breath'd upon her *Winding Shore*."

But the poet wrote not as an etymologiſt, although our etymologiſts often write like poets.

Rivers ſeldom flow in direct courſes; and water is never perhaps derived from the crookedneſs of its ſtream. But it is the cuſtom of antiquaries to render names of ſtreams by qualities. Thus the *Cam* is ſaid to imply *crooked*. *El* is a diminutive ending: the *Cam-el* muſt therefore be the LITTLE *crooked*; although its ſtream is MORE *crooked* than the *Cam*.

Windle ſora and *Winding ſhore* are ſaid to imply

imply the ſame; and the latter to be a tranſlation of the former, which is accounted Saxon. To the laſt language I have ſeldom referred; and as Mr. Lewis, in the article *Honiton*, found a difficulty in the convertibility of *c* to *h*, ſo here will the reader find the ſame in changing *le* to *ing*.

In derivations there are, as Mr. Evans on the *Severn* ſays, ſome things on which "the moſt able antiquaries have racked their brains in vain, and candidly owned themſelves at the moſt perfect loſs." Juſt ſo do I, who am not an antiquary, find myſelf bewildered, between *Windle ſora* and *Winding ſhore*.

But leaving one of theſe I will endeavour to explain the other. *Vin* in Vinovium has been proved to imply hill; and as *d* and *t* are commutable, and often added after *n*, *Vind* and *Wind* might mean the ſame. It was uſual to add ſome word denoting border in the names of places ſituated on the ſides of hills and ſtreams; and the word *carr*, *er*, *or*, *oir*, or *ur* was varied by prefixes to diſtinguiſh one diſtrict from another.* Thus *B-ear*

* See the word Bear or Bere, Worth and Worthy.

meant border, in *Kentiſbeare*, in *Rockbeare*, and in *Beer*, near Seaton: *Ver* was border in Silverton: and *S-er* or *S-or* is the ſame in *Windſor* or *Windſer*. In time theſe border appellations became the names of the lands around, and finally of the towns upon them.

Fra and *Fre* were ſometimes written for *fer*, as in *Il-fra-combe*, on the north ſea, Devon, pronounced *Ilfercombe*, and in *Silverton*, Devon, written in doomſday *Sulfreton*: but in *Windleſofra* the *f* ſeems to be an inſerted letter never articulated.

In *Windleſora*, or rather *Wind-el-ſora*, if *all* an augment, and not *ell* a diminutive, were originally the prefix to *Win*, then this name may be derived from *Uin* or *Win* a ſynonyme of *Ean* water, as ſhewn in the introduction; and *Wind-all-ſora* may in this caſe imply the *great ſtream border* or *town*. But as this place lies on a very remarkable *little* hill, *ell* is likely to have been the poſtfix, and the name ſeems to have been given from the ſituation of the hill on the Tames; or from the poſition of the town on the ſide and bottom of the hill. If it hath taken its denomination from the firſt, it meant originally the *border*, *little hill*:

if

if from the ſecond it implied the *little hill border* or *town.*

The ICENI, CENIMANNI, &c.

The firſt has been derived from *Ychen* oxen, from *Iken* a wedge, and from the *Iſe*, now the *Ouſe*; the change, ſay authors, from *Iſe* to *Ice* was very natural. The *Ceni*, *Y-cen-i*, or *Cen-om-es* are rendered by Mr. Whitaker the head ones; the *Cenimagni*, &c. the head men. And he ſuppoſes theſe derived from the *Cenomanni* of the continent! But *Ic-en* may come from *Oiche* changed to *Ich* or *Ic* water, and *en* land. Many parts of this province, which are on water or on ſtreams, ſtill retain the prænomen *Ic* or *Ick*, in the names of their pariſhes.

Beſides the common derivations of the *Cenimanni*, the reader will obſerve that *Cen* may be derived as hereafter, or from *Ceann* an head. *Man* may be derived as the iſland of *Mona* or *Manna*; or as *Mon* or *Man* in *Danmon*, and imply land. *Nor* may mean water, or border, *coaſt* or *head*; and *Folk* be a tranſlation of *Manni*, miſtaken for *Macne* a tribe. Again, *Fioch*, *Foch*, or *Foke*, land, may have been uſed as a ſynonyme of *Man*;

and have been miſtaken for the word *Folk*.—To *r* in *Nor*, a *d* was often added; and hence *Nord* and *North* may have been early readings of this name.

Should *Cenimanni* be a ſynonymous reading of *Iceni*, then the reader will derive *Cen* from *an* water, or from *Can* or *Cen* a lake or ſtream. He will alſo find *Nor* the ſame as the river *Nore*, to be derived from *av* the ſea or water, changed to *au*, *ar*, and *or*, to which *n* was prefixed to form its *proper* name. *Suv* or *Suf* will alſo be found a ſynonyme of *Nor*, and to be derived from the ſame word *av* or *uv*, with *ſ* prefixed to vary its *proper* name. The *Cenimanni* may imply inhabitants of the lake or water land, or of the head land.

Moreover the reader will obſerve, that the new names of diſtricts were generally ſynonymes of the old denominations; but that the words *Northfolk* and *Southfolk* deſcribe not the lands of the *Iceni*; nor are they tranſlations of the word. One of theſe denominations alſo denotes people as *Southfolk*, who have neighbours *more ſoutherly*: from all which it will appear that theſe words like

Weſtmoreland

Weſtmoreland may be corruptions of the original ones.

The CAM

Has been derived by every writer from the adjective *Cam* crooked; the *Camel** in Cornwall may therefore be drawn from the ſame ſource; but as *el* is a diminutive, the *Camel* will imply the *little crooked*, although it has a more winding courſe than the *Cam*. Theſe appellations exhibit two more inſtances of folly in adopting adjectives for explaining the names of places. The *Cam* is derived from *amh* or *am* water, with *c* prefixed. *C* is alſo a prefix to *an* water, in *Can*, a lake or ſtream.

CANTABRIG, GRANTABRIGE, and CAMBRIGE.

From Cantalupe's hiſtory of Cambridge the following is extracted: "In the year of the world 4321, 375 years before Chriſt, Gurgunt, ſon of Belin, King of Britain, returning from Denmark, diſcovered thirty ſhips, in which were Partholaym and Canteber, brothers and ſovereigns of Cantabra, in Spain,

* Named alſo the *Al-an*, in which name *an* is alſo a diminutive.

with

with their families and friends. Theſe had been expelled their country. Gurgunt pitying their diſtreſs, ſent Partholaym to Ireland; and Canteber, who was educated at Athens, he conducted to England, gave him Guenolenna, his daughter, to wife, and the eaſtern part of England, as her dower.—Canteber improved his new territory, founded Caer Grant, named from his ſon the Earl of Grantin. In Latin it was termed *Cante* from Canteber the founder, from whence came Cantabrigia." Thus far hiſtory; but I muſt further inveſtigate the origin of theſe names.

The river Cam was formerly named *Granta*; but at Cambridge it was doubtleſs very early denominated *Canta*. Each of theſe terms is derived from *an* water, to which *d* or *t* is added in this, as well as other appellations of ſtreams, to ſtrengthen the ſound of the ſyllable. Thus from *an* or *en* are derived the rivers *Ande*, in Hamſhire, and the Kent, in Weſtmoreland. The prefixes *gr*, *c*, or *k* are explained in the introduction; they ſerve generally to diſtinguiſh one ſettlement from another. But *Granta* and *Canta* are conſidered as ancient names of this town. The reader will obſerve, that both *Can* and *Canta* imply

imply lake in the Gaelic language. The river *Aubeg*, in Ireland, which means little water, from *au* water, and *beg* little, is alſo named *Mulla*, derived from *Mul* a ſtream, and *an* a diminutive evidently contracted to to *a*; juſt ſo might *Granta* and *Canta* denote a little ſtream or lake, from *Cant* or *Grant* a lake or ſtream, and *a* the contraction of the ſame diminutive.

Brig, in *Cantabrig*, may *not* have been derived as all our authors have imagined, from *Bridge*, but from *Brug*, a village or borough. *U*, according to Lhuyd, has in our oldeſt orthography three pronunciations, of which he reckons the firſt as *oo*, the ſecond as *y* or *i* in *Fual*, pronounced *Fial*, the third as *y* or *i* in *Bird* or *Third*. *Brug* then may have been pronounced and written *Brig*, as it is in *Cantabrig*; and this name may mean the little lake or ſtream town, or the lake or ſtream town: *Cambridge* the ſtream town. In Devon we have the town of *Kingſbridge*, where the rivulet muſt have been always ſo ſlender, that no bridge over it could have beſtowed the name. This place was, I apprehend, Terra Regis, and meant the King's village.—*Bridgewater* was in doomſday *Brugie*: it was given

given to Walter de Doway, and from thence an ancient name was *Brugge-Walter*, which is Walter's borough or town. Perhaps, ſays Mr. Collinſon, the idea of the town receiving its name from the bridge will never be totally relinquiſhed. Againſt the above obſervations it may be remarked, that *Brige* is Bridge in the Saxon language, that Simon of Durham, the Saxon chronicle, Hoveden, and others, wrote it *Brige*, *Bric*, and *Bricge*, which are Saxon words for Bridge. But it may be replied, that *Canta* is Gaelic and not Saxon, and that *Brig* muſt be accounted Gaelic alſo.*— *And hence the town muſt have been an ancient Britiſh ſettlement.* In the local hiſtories of counties and towns, many miſtaken etymons are exhibited; and theſe form very conſiderable portions of works: eventually, howe-

* In Hennock and other articles, I have given examples to ſhew that words from the ſame language ſhould be employed. The grammarian may rationally amuſe himſelf with tracing the affinity of the names in old languages; but the antiquary need not exhibit the confuſion of Babel, by citing all the Celtic languages, nor by forming words from all the chiming appellations which his reading may ſupply: it is ſufficient that he diſcovers from what language names were given, and without any other foreign aid, that renders them according to their original and natural import.

ver,

ver, ſuch parts may be re-written, and Bridge in Kingſbridge, Bridgewater, & even in *Cambridge*, like *Ridge* in the *Torridge*, may give place to the *ancient* and incontrovertible orthography.

CAMBORICUM,

Thus written in Antoninus—by Richard, of Cirenceſter, *Camborica Colonia*, has been accounted Cambridge. Dr. Stukely ſuppoſed an old ſtation at Cheſterford this place; Dr. Gale imagined it to be near Cambridge; and Dr. Horſeley at Icklingham. All theſe and other opinions I ſhall paſs by, and conſider the import of the word only. *Cam-bor-icum* or *Camborigum* has been ſuppoſed to be formed of *Camb* or *Cambo*, and *ricum*, which laſt has been written by ſome authors *ritum*; and has generally been underſtood, from what authority I know not, to mean a paſſage or ford. In ancient compound names we are often preſented with doubtful diviſions, and fancy has given them many an explanation. In this name *Cam* means ſtream, *bor* is border, and *ic*, already explained, means territory or town. Hence *Camboricum* meant the ſtream border ſettlement.

ELY

Has been derived from *Eel* a fiſh, becauſe eels abound in the water around this place; from *Helig* a willow "which grows in plenty in this place, where ſcarce any other tree is now to be found," and from the word *Holy*. Thus conſtantly do we encounter fancy in the jingle of terms! In *Hill* and *Hell*, words adopted in the compoſition of names, the root is *ill* or *ell*, and is derived from *au* an hill, changed to *all*, *ell* or *el*. *Ely* is a diminutive noun, and ſeems to be derived from the *little hill* on which it ſtands.

NORWICH and IPSWICH.

Nor in the firſt name has been rendered *North* as in *Northfolk*, and *wich* conſidered of an uncertain import. But *Nor* may be derived as the river *Nore*, in Ireland, from *av* changed to *au*, *ou*, and *or*, with the prefix *n*, which forms proper names. Thus the Adder a ſtream is alſo named *Nadder*: but *or* is alſo border, and *Nor* may be the ſame. *Norwich*, which lies on the *Yare*, may imply the ſtream or border territory or town.

Ipſwich, formerly *Gipſwich*, like Norwich may alſo be derived from the ſtream on which

it

it lies. We have *Gibſmere*, in Nottingham, and the river *Gipping*, in Suffolk; and this laſt is derived from *av*, *ap*, *ip*, with *g* prefixed, as is Gipſwich. *Wich* will be explained in the following pages.

HUNTINGTON or HUNTINGDON.

This is the name of an old ſettlement which is rendered by our etymologiſts *the Hunter's Down*. In the article *Honiton* or *Huniton*, Devon, it is ſhewn, that *Hon*, *Han*, and *Hun* may imply ſtream; *Tin*, *Ten*, *Tan*, *Ton* or *Don* means land. We have ſeveral *Huntingtons* and *Huntingdons* on ſmall ſtreams, and two *Huntingfords* on a ſmall ſtream in Glouceſterſhire, which mean little ſtream fords.

The CORITANI and their Cities.

The Coritani have been ſaid to come from the land of *Pits* and *Pools*; but in this caſe they certainly changed for a ſiſter country: ſo conveniently did the firſt inhabitants change their new ſituations to correſpond with their names! The *Coritani*, the *Haedui*, the *Bibroci*, and the reſt of the Britiſh tribes, are by our hiſtorians traced from one nation to another, of the ſame name, on the continent; and from thence conveyed to Britain; and all

ſeem to ſet at defiance the law of chances—for from this law they might not in all caſes have found new ſituations agreeable to their former names; but like *New Saliſbury*, the new little hill, might have been loſt in a valley.

Mr. Whitaker remarks that "the name of this nation appears plainly to have been *Corii, Coritani,* and *Coitanni.* The laſt appellation of them, he ſays, which literally ſignifies Woodlanders, is, according to this learned writer, derived from *Coit-en* or woods, which more particularly covered the ſurface of this country. And the two others are borrowed from that one remarkable circumſtance in their condition, of which the woodineſs of their country is a ſufficient argument, the fewneſs of their numbers, and the inſignificancy of their kingdom. The *Corii* mean the little people, and the *Coritan* imports the country of them."

That a country overrun to a great extent from its borders with lakes and pools, and in its interior with ſtreams, ſhould imply woods, is ſcarcely to be conceived: and that the *Corii* meant little men, from the paucity of its inhabitants.

inhabitants, of which we have no hiſtoric proof, is ſtill more inconceivable. To this we may add that neither of theſe words ſeems any way to bear out ſuch tranſlation, nor to ſuit the ancient mode of naming places.

Coritani and *Coitanni* muſt have been uſed as ſynonymous words. We have the rivers *Car*, *Car-y*, *Car-an*, and *Car* or *Cor-Dyke*, a drain, in Lincoln. We have alſo *Corrach*, a marſh or fen, that is water land; and all theſe are derived from *av*, the ſea or water, changed to *ov*, *ou*, *or*, which, with *c* prefixed, will imply water, ſtream, lake, pool, drain, &c.—The word may alſo imply a *corner*, *bend*, or *twiſt*.

Coritan may imply the water, ſtream, or drain country, &c.

Lincoln implies the lake, head, or hill.

Nottingham the little ſtream border.

Derby the ſtream habitation.

Leiceſter the ſtream camp.

Rutland, from *Rote* a road, the road land.

Northampton the land or border town, north of the Nen.

The

The PARISII, PARIS,

May have derived their name from *Parh*, a part, portion, &c.; an old word preſerved in the Corniſh, and *is* a diminutive; and *Pâis*, which is perhaps the ſame as our word *Pariſh*, may imply the little diſtrict, portion, &c. It may alſo be derived from *er* or *earr* border, end, point, head, or head-land. *B* and *p* are prefixes, and convertible: *Bar* or *Par* is head, or head-land. The poſtfix *is* may come from *ad*, changed to *at*, *as*, *is*, as in the introduction, and mean water, the ſame as *is* in *Inis* an iſland. This land is now named *Holderneſs*, which is derived as in the river *Hull*, from *au* water, changed to *al* and *ol*. The *h* was a prefix: *Der* is border, and *Neſs* implies promontory. Hence *Paris* may mean as before ſtated, or the water portion or head-land. *Holderneſs* may imply the water border head-land. Theſe names and explanations illuſtrate each other, and ſhew that the appellations were given from the features of the country. Of the explanations before given, authors follow Mr. Baxter, who tranſlates it "*Paur iſa*," low paſture. *Paris*, in France, is traced by etymologiſts from *Par* and *Iſis*; in like manner was the *Tames* de-

rived

rived from *Tam* and *Iſis*: *Paris* is underſtood to have taken its name from the ſituation of a famous temple of this goddeſs in that city, the image of which, nurſing *Orus*, is now at the Petits Auguſtins, in the great metropolis. We might have ſuſpected that the name was derived from the *Pariſii*, and that theſe borrowed their denomination from the features of their territory, had we not been aſſured by authors, that it owes its appellation to the above circumſtance!

The BRIGANTES.

Of the name of this nation many an etymon has been the creature of fancy. We ſhall compare the appellation with its ſynonyme or preſent repreſentative; but firſt ſhall ſtate, that the word *may* have been derived from the ſame ſource as Britain. We have ſhewn in Briſtol how *Brig* may be derived: *Aon*, *An*, *Ant* meant country in various names; and the *Brigantes may* imply the people of the water country.

"In Ireland, after the *Burrow*, *Noir* and *Suir* were united, the ſtream was named *Brigus*; and an ancient diſtrict, containing the entire county of Waterford, was, as Mr. Beaufort

Beaufort informs us,* named *Breogain*, denominated from lying on the Breoghan or Brigus. The inhabitants of this district, he alſo ſtates, were frequently called Slioght Breoghain, or the race dwelling on the forked river, and were the Brigantes of Ptolomy."

But *Breogh* and *An* may be conſidered as two names; and from *Braoch*, *Breach*, or *Breogh*, the border of a country, may this name be derived. The word *An* may imply water, or may be a contraction of *Aon* country. *T* was often added after *n*: hence the *Brigantes* may mean dwellers on the border land, or the water border land. We will now examine how this explanation agrees with the name *Northumberland*, which was perhaps an old provincial ſynonyme or denomination, or a tranſlation of *Breoghant* or *Brigant*.

The river *Humber* was by Ptolomy named *Abus*, of which we have no etymon. *Ab* or *Av* is the Gaelic *Amh*, the ſea or water, which changed to *Am* and *Um*, with the addition of *Ber* border, tail, &c. means the border water, as well as the water mouth or tail. *C* and *h* are both prefixes, and therefore *C-umber* and *H-umber*, in the names

North-

* Vallancey's Tracts.

North-umber-land, or *North-H-um-ber-land*, and *C-umber-land*, or *C-umer-land*, imply the ſame. Both theſe denominations imply the *water border land*. The territories of the Brigantes were nearly the ſame as the Saxon kingdom north of the Humber. Several parts, however, of this diſtrict, when divided, took the names of their principal towns; but the whole kingdom of *North-umber-land* meant the *north water border land*: the latter part of which ſeems to be a tranſlation of *Breoghant*: and the *Humber*, as well as the ſea around this territory, meant in theſe appellations the *border water*.

But if *Belge** meant not border land, neither might *Brigant* mean the ſame; and ſo *Brig* might be miſtaken for *Breoch* or *Breogh*, for the ſame reaſon that *Bel* was for *Bile*.—Both theſe names then might anciently imply *water land*; but in the *new* names they imply *water border land*.

* See Somerſet, where I conſider that *Bel* means water or the ſea. Some readers may think that *Bel* implies border; but as places on the ſea were generally by the ancients named water land, I conceive that *Bel* is derived as mentioned in Somerſet; and that it means water rather than border.

Before I conclude this it will be neceſſary to obſerve, that a *Brigant* means, in the Welſh and other languages, a *depredator*; and I might conclude on Mr. Macpherſon's authority, that the *Brigantes* meant *thieves*. In late times, when the diſſentions of nations called forth reſiſtance againſt each other, depredations naturally took place, and the name of a nation might become, not only for a time, a term of infamy among its enemies, but it might be adopted as a word of reproach in their language alſo. Mankind muſt however diſcriminate between proper names of places, and opprobious appellations. The greater part of the ancient nations of this kingdom, evidently took their names from their ſituations, and it is agreeable to reaſon to ſuppoſe, that ſome general principle was followed in naming *every* diſtrict, ſo as to diſtinguiſh one from another.

WESMORELAND.

In the river Dart the word *Moor*, *Moer*, *More*, or *Mere*, in *Cranmere*, a lake in Dartmoor, is traced to the original meaning, and ſhewn to imply *the water ſource*. The word *Wis* or *Wes* may be derived from *Is*, *Es*, *Uis*,

or *Ues*, and means water, the ſame as *Cran* or *Crau*, in *Cran* or *Craumere*. *Ues* or *Wes* in this name has become from corruption *Weſt*. We have many names of places beginning with *Wis* and *Wes*, as *Weſſel* on the Tyll; alſo *Wiſbich*, *Wiſcomb*, *Wiſton*, *Weſton*, *Weſcot*, and the river *Weſ-er*. WESTmoreland is ſtill pronounced Wesmoreland, and means the *water ſource land*. This name has been derived by our authors from Marius a Britiſh Prince, from Mooriſh land, weſtern Mooriſh land, and by Mr. Whitaker from Waſte-moorland; but no ſatisfactory explanation ſeems to have been exhibited by *any* writer that I have conſulted. Many of the ſtreams of the north of England take their riſe in this county; and the immenſe lakes, together with the ſprings and ſtreams of Wesmoreland, are certainly the moſt peculiar features of this diſtrict.

CARLISLE.

"We come next, ſays Dr. Burn, to the ancient and famous city of Carliſle, called by the Romans Luguvallium, environed with the rivers of Eden on the *N E* ſide, Petterel on the *S E*, and Caldew on the *S W*. It is ſituated

along Severus's wall, and from the colony there placed received its denomination. For *Llu-gydu-gwal* in the ancient British ſignifies *an army by the wall*;* from whence the Romans formed their *Lugu-vallium*! The Saxons afterwards by contraction called it *Luel* and *Lu-wall*; and the laſt Britiſh inhabitants there prefixing to it the word Caer, which is the appellation of a city, called it *Caer Luil* or *Caer Leyl*, and the common people pronounce it according to the ſaid orthography to this day."

But I conceive this town to be derived from the plural of *Lug* a ſtream, and *Baile* a town, or *Balla* a fortreſs; and *Luybaile, Luyvaile, Luyaile* became in time *Luil*, and has been termed *Luil's city*; but implies the fortreſs on the ſtreams, or the ſtreams' town.

PENRITH, Cumberland.

In Richards's Welch dictionary it is ſtated that this place was formerly named *Penrhyn Rionedd*; and Mr. Whitaker ſtates that Pen-

* How this author could think that *an army by the wall* could be the name of a town, he has not informed us; nor does it appear that *Lugu-vallium* means as this learned writer has ſtated.

rith

rith is a contraction of theſe words. In the Corniſh *Ruth* is red; and as *u* was pronounced ſometimes as *i* or *y*, and as *Rionedh* is evidently derived from the Gaelic word *Ruanaidh*, red, it is plain that Penrith is not a contraction of *Pen*-RHYN-*Rionedd*, but comes from *Pen* and *Ruth*, the laſt pronounced and now written *Rith*. Hence *Rhyn* in *Penrhyn* was ſunk and not abbreviated.

LANCASTER

Is derived from *Lan* or *Lon*, a lake or ſtream, and implies the ſtream camp.

YORK, or EBORACUM,

According to Camden was named by the Britons *Caer-Effroc*, by the Saxons *Evor-wic*, by *Nennius Caer-Ebrauc*. The Britiſh hiſtory derives the name from the firſt founder *King Ebraucus*. But with ſubmiſſion, ſays Camden, to better judgments, my opinion is that the word *Eboracum* comes from the river *Ure*, implying its ſituation to be upon that river. Thus the *Eburovices* in France were ſeated upon the river *Ure*, near *Eureaux*, in Normandy; the *Eburones* in the Netherlands, near the river *Ourt*, in the dioceſe of *Liege*, &c.

Camden

Camden in the above has judged very rightly as to the derivation of this city. The Romans often wrote *b* inſtead of *u*. The river is the *Ouſe*, which in our time changes its name at Aldwark Ferry, where the Ouſebourn joins it; but it is plain that in the time of this people the ſtream was even at York called *Euor*.

Whether *Euor* or *Ebor* mean the ſtream or the great ſtream, I leave to the reader. The ending *ac* in *Eborac* is *oc* in *Effr-oc*; *auc* in *Ebr-auc*; *wic* in the *Ure* of France, on which the *Eburo-vic-es* were ſeated; and *wic* in *Evor-wic*. From theſe and what is ſaid of *Victis*, or the Iſle of Wight, it is plain that *ic* was varied to *ac*, *auc*, *oc*, *vic*, and *wic*: but each of theſe was evidently uſed for *territory* or *diſtrict*; and *Eborac* meant the *ure* or *water diſtrict* or *ſettlement*. To conclude, *eu* in *Euorac* was pronounced *y*; and the *a* in *ac* was dropped. Hence *Eborac* or *Euorac* became *Yorc* or *York*.*

LIVERPOOL.

* CORK

Is ſuppoſed by *General Vallancey* (to whom the learned world is greatly indebted for his indefatigable reſearches), to be

LIVERPOOL.

"The former part of the name is ſuppoſed by ſome, ſays Mr. Enfield, to be derived from a bird which uſed to be found in this place, and was called the *Liver*; but this bird, he ſays, appears to have had no exiſtence except in fabulous tradition, and in the herald's office. Others imagine that it might be taken from a ſea weed, now known by the name *Liver* in the weſt of England, or from a ſpecies of the *Hepatica*, vulgarly called *Liverwort*. Whilſt others derive it from the *Lever* family, which is of ancient date in this county."

be derived from *Ciuree*, which he apprehends to be the ſame with the Chaldee *Cirib*, or the Iriſh word *Ciura*, merchantable!

The word *Cork* is however ſuppoſed by *Smith** to come from *Curach*, and to mean a *bog* or *marſh*. That *Curach* or *Corraob* means a *marſh* we need not deny;† but that *ac* meant *territory*, and that *Cor* means *ſtream*, we have proved; and hence *Corac*, *Corc*, or *Cork* will imply the *river territory*, which is a very applicable explanation, of the name of this place; and alludes I conceive, the ſame as *Limerick*, to the iſland on which it is ſituated. The ſame nearly may be ſtated of *Euorac* or *York*.‡

* Hiſtory of the county, and town of Cork.—† See the ancient ſtate of this city.—‡ *Biorrac* alſo means a marſhy field, from *Bior* water, and *ac* territory.

But

But *Liver* in this word may mean the great eſtuary or harbour border, from *Leim*, *Lim*, or *Liv*, an harbour,* and *er* great or border. This place was alſo anciently named *Ler* or *Lyr Pool*; perhaps from *Lear* Gaelic for the ſea, and *Poll* a road. *Liverpool* implies the great harbour road, or the harbour border road.†

* DUBLIN and the LIFFY.

Mr. Baxter derives the firſt from *Div* and *Lhin*, black water, or black channel. Mr. Beauford, in Gen. Vallancey's tracts, ſays that "it evidently comes from *Dubh* black, and *Leana* a ſwampy place; and that it means the place of the black harbour or lake; or rather the lake of the ſea, the bay of Dublin being frequently ſo called."

But as the adjective generally follows the ſubſtantive in the language of the old names of places, theſe authors have miſtaken the words; and this place, formerly ſo marſhy as to require hurdles for paſſing from the river to the houſes, is likely to mean *ſtream marſh*, from *Dob* a ſtream, and *Leana*, *Lon* or *Lin* a marſh.

The river is named *Liffy*, which may be derived from *Leim*, *Lim*, *Liv*, or *Lif* an harbour; and *Liffy* will imply the little harbour; or, from what is ſaid in the article of the river Plym, the little lake. *Limerick* alſo, beſides what is mentioned in that article, may imply the harbour border town; the lake border, or the great lake town.

† Vallancey's Tracts, vol. 3, page 270.

MANCUNIUM* or MANCHESTER, QUANTOCK, &c.

Mr. Baxter and Mr. Whitaker derive the firſt name from *Man* a *place*, and *Cenion tents*. The reader, whilſt he requires truth, or at leaſt probability, will, in this name, keep particularly in view the *uncertainty* of derivations. In the language to which we have invariably referred for the explanation of names, *Man* means not a *place*, nor does *Cenion* imply *tents*. The tranſlation moreover ſeems not to illuſtrate the ſituation of *Mancunium*, which was on an *hill* by the *Medlock*.

Man

*Mr. BAXTER.

A few terms only, ariſing from our ſenſations, or from our perceptions of the objects around us, were, in the old languages of the world, the *roots*, from which all OTHER *words diſtinguiſhing the features of nature*, were gradually formed.—Many of theſe laſt, though derived from different ſources, are now found ſimilar in their orthography; and hence, and from our not comprehending that the *roots* of theſe words expreſs their ſenſe, difficulties have ariſen in rendering old terms.

Mr. Whitaker, in his hiſtory of Mancheſter, ſeems to have borrowed many of his derivations from Mr. Baxter, who often derives names from parts of nature, which never gave them denomination. Ambiguities ariſe not from *common* words of the original language; for theſe were formed, and varied, to convey *common ideas* only; and in theſe Mr. Baxter was certainly

Man often implies *ſtream* from *an* water, with *m* prefixed. Thus we have the *Man* or *Maun* a river in Nottinghamſhire; the *Man-yan* in Derbyſhire; and the *Man-i-fold* in Staffordſhire. *Cuan* is Gaelic for an *hill; Quantock* or *Cuan-toich,* in Somerſet, means the *hill country,* from *Cuan* as before, and *Toich country.* Hence *Mancunium* may imply the *ſtream hill.*

But

tainly not at a loſs in his tranſlations: but in the knowledge of PROPER NAMES, neceſſarily formed for every particular diſtrict, and for every local purpoſe, the number of which exceed our ordinary conception, and whoſe *roots* only, in the *common* language, denote the names of places and of natural things, he was, like *other* authors, certainly deficient.

Nothing irritates the mind more, than a diſcovery of errors, which have been impoſed on our credulity for truths. We ſeldom conſider what aſſertions we ourſelves have made; what principles taken for granted and propagated, for want of patient inveſtigation, and from our inability to comprehend their difficulties: aſſertions & principles, which had perhaps no ground but in our prejudices; and no foundation, but in our fancies. Mr. Whitaker had been miſled; and in his reſentment, he characteriſes Mr. Baxter, as "*the Merry Andrew of Etymology.*"†—But Mr. B's. etymological ſins are highly coloured, if not greatly overcharged. They were not, I conceive, the *voluntary* effuſions of a *Merry Andrew*; but this celebrated writer's *involuntary* wanderings, from probability

† Hiſt. of St. German's Cathedral.

But this place was alſo named *Mamucium*, which may mean the *little hill*, or the *hill country, caſtle* or *town*: *Manigceaſter*, which may imply *little ſtream*, or *hill caſtle*; *Mamerceaſter*, which may be rendered the *little hill*, or *border hill caſtle*; and *Mameceſtre*, which may be tranſlated nearly the ſame.

Mamceſtre and *Mancaſtle*, as this place has alſo been named, may imply *caſtle hill*.

But

bility and truth; which, like our own miſtakes, ſhould rather entertain than irritate the intelligent reader.

Moreover we ſee many things by parts, and in etymology *ſeldom* comprehend compleat ſubjects. Were we then to deny merit *generally* to the exertion of a learned writer, who may have failed *partially*, in ſuch an undertaking as the origin of names, we might be found condemning his *laudable* efforts.

The author of this treatiſe boaſts of *no literary attainments*; but in purſuing his ſubject, the deficiency of learning became a very inferior conſideration. *He perceived that the etymologies of old names proceeded from roots hitherto unknown; and he was obliged* HIMSELF *to ſhew this truth.* In examining ancient denominations, *fancy*, which is always buſy in preſenting ideas, was ſtrictly to be watched; and *deſign*, which accommodates appellations to ſubjects, was anxiouſly to be purſued. Every falſe ſuggeſtion in the origin of words retards our progreſs; and reaſon and reflection only enable us to reſume our ſtation, and

But from *Un* a ſynonyme of *Ah* water, with *c* prefixed, *Cun* may mean *ſtream*. In Warwickſhire we have the river *Cune*. Moreover as *Man* is Gaelic for *hill*, and *n* and *m* are often ſubſtituted for each other, as has been the caſe perhaps in this name, *Man** may alſo imply *hill*; and *Mancunium* may ſtill be rendered the *ſtream hill*.

and to proſecute our enquiries. With theſe guides the author has endeavoured *to open a path* to the etymology of old names. From his expoſitions of the denominations of the iſland, its provinces, towns, rivers, hills, vallies, and plains; he conceives that theſe have been, *with very few exceptions*, WRONGLY RENDERED BY ALL OUR AUTHORS. The ſubject is therefore of ſuch conſequence, that further examination muſt follow; and in the courſe of the enquiry, the writer hopes to ſee the difficulties under which etymologiſts have laboured, greatly removed. In performing his taſk, without he may truly ſay a guide, the reader muſt not be ſurpriſed if he finds that a few errors have attended the author's language, expoſitions, and obſervations.

* *Man* alſo has been ſhewn to imply land. *Or* is an augment and a ſynonyme of *oll* great: the word *Man-or* then, which Mr. Whitaker, in his hiſtory of this town, calls an untraceable word, and which he renders (from what authority I know not) a *diſtrict*, may be traced to mean THE GREAT LAND.—*Bar-on*, which he alſo renders a *military man*, is alſo derived from *Bar* an head, chief, or chieftain, and *on* an augment.—Laſtly, *Bar-ton* may be derived from *Bar* chief, and *Ton* land or farm.

To

To aſcertain of ſeveral ſynonymous words which is wrong, when all may be proved right, what hours have been ſpent, what learning employed, and what pages filled!

The etymologiſt wiſhes not to miſlead his readers; and although he ſometimes fails in his proofs, and fatigues with his wanderings, he often amuſes in his deviations and excurſions, and even in his etymological ſins.—Thus reader mayeſt thou be entertained with my vagaries; and if my etymological errors are of ſuch complexion, as to attone for their violation of probability, thou needeſt not harſhly cenſure this eſſay.

The CARNABII, CORNOVII, &c.

From *Car* or *Cor* as in the *Coritani*, and *Nab* or *Nav* the ſea or water, may imply the *dwellers of the* SEA *bend* or *corner:* or from *Corn*, *Horn*, and *Av* the ſea, which may imply the *ſea*, *horn*, or *corner*.

WORCESTER

Was named *Weogerna-ceaſter*, *Weogorna-ceaſter*, *Wigera-ceaſter*, and *Wire-ceaſter*. "A name ſuppoſed by ſome to be formed from *Wire*, the name of a foreſt upon the borders

of

of Shropſhire." By others this denomination is derived from *Wigora* in Wigora-ceaſter; and this from *Huic* or *Wic*, which they render the winding banks of rivers. Mr. Carte derives *Wic* or *Huic* from *Hukh*, *Porcus*— and others from the briny wells in this country.

We have proved that *Wig* or *Wic* meant ſtream, that the word in time was uſed for border land; and that it was laſtly adopted for village or town. The ending *or*, *er*, *ern*, *orn*, &c. is explained in the article Severn.

SHROPSHIRE, SHREWSBURY, SALOP.

Theſe names have been totally loſt as to their original ſignification. *Scrobbes*, which was the Saxon ſpelling of *Shrews*, has been ſuppoſed by etymologiſts to mean *ſhrubs* or *trees*; but a difficulty ariſes to account from whence ſuch tranſlation can be drawn. The ſynonyme *Salop* will elucidate this name. *Sal* may imply either hill or water, but it means in many places hill, and is derived from *a* or *au*, changed to *al*, with *ſ* prefixed. *Op* from *ob* or *ov* is water, and the word means the *water*, *hill*, or *town*.

Scrobbes

Scrobbes has become *Shrews*, the *bb* was always perhaps pronounced as *vv* or *uu*. The Romans often wrote *b* for *u*, and therefore this is likely to be a name as ancient as theſe people. *W* occurs not, ſays Lhuyd, in ancient MSS; but about the year 1200 it was firſt uſed as *v* conſonant. In the Gaelic there was no *h*: hence *Shrew* muſt have been written *Srev*, *Sreav*; and as *mh* was the Gaelic *v*, *Sreamh*, which is Gaelic for ſtream; and conſequently Shrewſbury, which is nearly ſurrounded by the Severn, means the ſtream, hill, or town. No name could poſſibly have been more appropriately choſen, nor can there be an etymon more appropriately juſt.

STAFFORD,

On the Sow, comes from *av* water, with the prefix *ſt*, as does *Staverton* on the Dart, and towns of the ſame name on other ſtreams, which mean the ſtream border towns. *Staf* and *Stav* are, like *Taf* and *Tav*, ſynonymes, and *Stafford* implies the ſtream ford.

LICHFIELD, and the word FIELD,

By the Saxons written *Licedfeld* and *Licetfeld*. It is agreed by all to imply the field of carcaſſes! But *Ich* or *Ic* is a term derived from

from *Oiche, Oc,* or *Och* water, as in the introduction. *Ic* hath many conſonants prefixed in the appellations of towns: *Ed* and *Et* was a diminutive ending. The firſt part of the name ſeems to be drawn from the Gaelic language, and *Field* muſt therefore have originally belonged to the ſame: *Field* is however ſuppoſed to come from the Saxon word *Feld;* it means generally a place, as the field or place of battle. *Bail* Gaelic meant alſo a place, a town, or village; the root of this was *Aill,* which is Gaelic for a place. *Ai* was pronounced as *e.** *Bail, Bel, Fel,* as *b* and *f* were convertible letters, were therefore the ſame. *Au* an hill was changed to *Al* or *All,* and this to *Ald* or *Alt,* in the names of many places: *d* was then added in names after *l;* and hence *Fel* became the Saxon *Feld.* Moreover, *Bail, Beil,* and *Feil* were alſo, as *a* was changed ſo often to *e,* the ſame; and *Feil* is even at this time in ſome places the pronunciation of *Field;* with *d* added as before, we have the name *Feild,* now *Field.*

From the above it would appear that the derivation of *Field* is not, as aſſerted, in our

* Lhuyd's Archælogia.

dictionaries,

dictionaries. "ground not built on, not inhabited, not incloſed"—but the very contrary; it may be ſuch as is built on, inhabited, and incloſed. *Licedfeld* or *Licetfeld* implies the little water place or town; but as *l* is generally a prefix to extended water, this name may imply *the little lake town.*

WARWICK,

By the Britons named *Caer Guaruic,* is derived as the *Ware* or *Were* a ſtream, which comes from *av* changed to *au, ar,* or *er; w* in this name being a prefix. On the *Avon,* and in this county, there are many ſynonymes of *War* in the firſt ſyllable of names, and which have *ar* for their root: thus we have *Mar* in Marclive, *Par* in Parſhore, *Bar* in Barford; but *Bar* is Gaelic for ſtream; and as *Par, Mar,* and *War* are ſynonymes, and *Wick* means territory or town, Warwick will imply the ſtream town. This place has been derived from *Gwayr* a Britiſh Prince, from *Waremund* father of the firſt Offa, King of the Mercians, and from *Guarth* a fortreſs.

BIRMINGHAM.

Dugdale's derivation of this town is from *Birminge* a Saxon poſſeſſor. Mr. Hutton's

from *Brom* the ſhrub *Broom*, and *Wych* a declivity. A learned author ſuppoſed *Breminium* to be compoſed of *Bre* and *Maen*, the high ſtone; and the ſite of it he ſays muſt have been on the creſt of the hill at Birmingham. But the *high ſtone* in the derivation of this town's name, may be ranked with the *white ſtone* in the name Whitſtone.

In its ſite Mr. Hutton ſays "all the paſt writers upon Birmingham have viewed her as low & watery, & with reaſon; becauſe Digbeth, then the chief ſtreet, bears that deſcription. But all future writers will view her on an eminence, and with as much reaſon; becauſe for one low ſtreet we have fifty elevated. Birmingham, like the empire to which it belongs, has been for many centuries travelling up-hill; and like that riſing in conſequence."

Brem in Bremin, or *Bremin* the ancient name of this place, latinized *Breminium*, may be derived the ſame as Brem in the river Bramige or Bremige, in Northumberland; or it may mean brink or border, and be a ſynonyme of our word Brim. In the laſt caſe

caſe it may be derived from the ſame root as *Hem*. *En* will imply land or town.

Brem or *Brom-wich* will mean the ſame, *Fich*, *Vich*, or *Wich* is territory, &c. but *Brimigeham* may imply the *water territory border*, from *Brim* a ſtream; *Ic* or *Ig* territory; and *Ham* border; or the little water border, from *Brim* as before, *Ic* or *Ig* a diminutive, and *Ham* border; for *Brim* in this word cannot be ſuppoſed border, and *Ham* the ſame; and yet as the Saxons miſunderſtood *Ham*, they might add it to the old name for village.

Brim-ige alſo ſeems to be a ſynonyme of *Bir-ming* or *Bir-min*. The firſt derived as the river Bremige; and *Birmin* implying little water or ſtream.

But if this town ſhould have taken its name from its *hill*, then *Bre* an hill, and *Min* or *Men* little, may have been terms from whence *Breminium* was derived. It ſhould be noted that *Bremen*, in Germany, lies on the *Weſer*, and on the border of an extenſive plain; and ſeems to imply the town on the ſtream border, or territory.

WARRINGTON,

Is ſtated by Mr. Whitaker to be the *Veratinum* of the Ravennas, and he renders *Veratin* ford town; referring to Mr. Lhuyd's Archælogia, and to Gale's Antoninus, for authorities. But notwithſtanding theſe, *War* is ſtream, as in the river *Var*, and in *Warwick*; and *Tain* or *Tin* is land; *Var* or *Warrin-ton*, as *In* is alſo land, and the root of *Tin*, will imply the ſtream territory town.

COVENTRY.

Cov-en is derived the ſame as the river *Cov-er*, and means little ſtream; *Tri* or *Try* is habitation or town. There are other etymons for this town's name; but theſe have not been very appropriately choſen.

The ORDOVICES.

Mr. Whitaker, after ſtating the conqueſts of this nation, ſays "that they aſſumed or received the diſtinguiſhing appellation of *Ord-vices* or *Ordovices*, the great *Huicii* or HONOURABLE VICES!"

In explaining the meaning of theſe terms he mentions "there appear to have been two nations in the iſland by one denomination

tion of *Uiccii, Uices*, or *Vices*: and the name he ſays ſignifies *a brave people!* This therefore, Mr. W. continues, was naturally a popular appellation among the military tribes of the Celtæ. And we find the *Aulerici Eburo-Vices*, the *Aulerici Branno-Vices*, and the *Lemo-Vices* in Gaul; and meet with the *Huiccii* or *Vices*, and the *Ordo-Vices* in Britain!"*

But this name is derived thus:—*Ard* or *Ord* is an hill; *ou* or *o* may be a plural ending, an augment, or a Roman termination.—*Fich, Vich*, or *Vic* means territory; and the *Ordovices* will imply dwellers of the hill country, or the great hill country; and this will be a very appropriate and rational explanation of the name of this people who inhabited the moſt mountainous diſtrict of Wales.

The DIMÆTÆ or DYVED.

This name, like others, has been wrongly tranſlated by all our authors. From *Tamh* or *Tav*, the ſea or water, comes a large claſs of prænomens, varied, as in the introduction,

* See the Hiſtory of Mancheſter for more on this head; and the article *Huiccii* which herein follows.

to

to *Tiv, Div,* and *Dim.* We have the *Diver,* a ſtream in Wilts: *et* or *ed* is a diminutive; and *aid* means a portion, &c. The *Dimætæ* therefore may imply *dwellers on the little ſea,* or *inhabitants of the ſea portion.*

The SILURES

Have been rendered under the head Scilly, the ſea or water borderers; but as *Sil* implies hill in the names of many places, this name may, as well as Scilly, be otherwiſe tranſlated.

The HUICCII.

Of theſe, as well as other nations, we have many *ludicrous* explanations. It ſhould be conſidered, that to name land lying on the borders of ſtreams, hills, &c. the following words, or contraction of words, being ſhort ſyllables, were adopted as poſtfixes—to wit: *er, ir, ar, or, ur; in, en, an, on, un; ac, ec, ic, oc, uc:** hence ſingly they may imply land on ſtreams, hills, &c. *Ic* became *Uic, Huic,*

* Although the *Shannon,* the *Taimon,* and many other large ſtreams anciently took augments, and a vaſt number of ſmall ſtreams their diminutive endings, it will appear evident to a perſon who ſhall examine, that *ſome* ſtreams have taken poſtfixes expreſſive

Huic, Wic, Wick, Week, Fich, and *Bich* as in Wiſbich; and meant land, or land on ſome border. The *Wiccii* were dwellers on border land; and the territory meant by theſe terms, notwithſtanding what is mentioned by authors, may have often ſtretched far from the principal ſtreams or hills. It is ſaid that the *Wiccii* poſſeſſed a part only of the country of the Dobuni, how truly I know not.

Ich, Wich, Wick, or *Week*, however, like *Lea* or *Ley*, meant originally water. We have *Wiccombe* on the little river *Wick*; but places or lands on wicks or ſtreams were named from theſe, in the ſame manner as thoſe on leas were named from this ſynonyme of ſtream. Hence in time *Fich, Wich*, or *Week* became territory, and even village and town. Still, however, the ſtreams in ſome places retained their names, and *Wickham*,

expreſſive of their border land; but augments and diminutives, and terms for border, annexed to the names of water or ſtreams, are ſpelt the ſame as denominations for water or ſtream: thus *er* or *ar* in the Tamer or Tamar, Tiber or Humber, which may mean *great* or *border*, is the ſame as *ar* or *er* water, in the river *Arrow*, or in *Ermington*, Devon. Hence ſome diſcrimination will be neceſſary in rendering ſuch terms.

Wickwick,

Wickwick, and *Wickland* are names of places in our books of local deſcription. But *Ick* may not only be derived from ſtreams; for *Aighe* an hill may be changed to *Igh*, *Ich*, *Uich*, *Vich*, *Wich*, &c.; the reader will therefore exerciſe his own judgment where theſe names occur; but he will generally find them on ſtreams.

The DOBUNI.

The *Dobuni* have been ſaid to mean, by Mr. Whitaker and other writers, *Lowlanders*; & are derived from the Welſh *Duffen*, *Bodo*, or *Bodun*: but the appellation comes from *Dob* a ſtream, and *Un* border land; the *Dobuni* dwellers on the ſtream border land.

I agree with Mr. Macpherſon, who ſays that "the names of all the original tribes of this kingdom were of a Gaelic origin." Whoever will look into a map of this country, through which the river flows, will find the Severn and its tributary ſtreams, more likely to have given name to the inhabitants around, than the words *Duffen*, *Bodo*, or *Bodun*.—Theſe people were alſo named *Huiccii*.

GLOUCESTER

GLOUCESTER

Was the ancient *Glev-um* or *Clev-um ;* it implies the cliff, fortreſs, or town.

The CASSIEUCHLANI

Seems to imply inhabitants of the ſtream ſource land ; but this has been otherwiſe rendered, and the reader will perhaps conſider the etymon as yet *not* aſcertained.

BUCKINGHAM,

Derived by all our writers from the *Beeches, Bucks*, or *Deer* with which this country is imagined to have abounded : but a more rational enquiry will ſhew, that from its natural ſituation on the Ouſe, this town took its name.

Uck is water, and this word is a variation of *Oiche*, as ſhewn in the introduction : with *b* prefixed it will be *Buck*. *Beck* was an old term for *ſtream ;* and in Montgomeryſhire there is the river *Bache*. *A, o,* and *u* were written indiſcriminately for each other, and hence *Back* or *Buck* were the ſame, and each meant *ſtream*.

The *Ouſe* is ſaid to waſh this town on every ſide except the north. *In* in this name will

 therefore

therefore mean *territory,* or it may be a diminutive. *Ham* is *border;* but by the Saxons this might be an adjunct added for *town.*— *Buckingham* will therefore mean *the ſtream territory town,* or if the river is ſmall at this place, the little ſtream town.

HERTFORD or HARTFORD, HARTINGFORD.

The ford of this place is ſtated by our writers to imply *the ford of the harts;* and to be derived from the deer with which this country formerly abounded! We exhibit no ancient ſtatue like *Lud* on Ludgate, nor like *Iſis* at Paris, to confirm this etymon. More ample authorities preſent themſelves. The arms of Hertford, according to Speed, are an hart couchant in the water: and the Saxon chronicle names this place *Heorotford.* Thus are we precluded from differing on the etymon, by a deciſion of the herald's office, and by the word *Heorot,** which in Saxon implies an hart.

* The word *Heorot* Cervus being ſimilar in ſound to the term *hart,* ſeems to have been accounted by the Saxons the etymon of this name; and authors of the late, and preſent ages, confiding in the propriety of the derivation, have adopted a tranſlation of their chiming appellation.

But

But we muſt ſtate that *Her* and *Har* are derived from the root *ar*, and a large claſs of names of rivers, towns on ſtreams, and one even of the ſea, is from thence derived. To *ar* the letter *t* is often ſubjoined in the appellations of places and rivers, to ſtrengthen the ſound of the ſyllable: thus *Dur* water has become *Dart*; *Yar*, *Yart* in the *Yarty*; and *Ber*, *Bert*. The name *Hert* or *Hart* then means ſimply ſtream, as *Hart* does in the river *Hartley*. *Hartingford* is ſituated on a ſmall ſtream about a mile from *Hartford*; and if *Hartford* were the ford of harts, *Hartingford*, as *in* is a diminunitive, muſt be the ford of the little harts, or of the fawns! But it may be ſaid that *in* in Hart*in*ford means territory. The reader will obſerve in maps, that Hertford is on the river Lea, Hertingford on the Mimmeram. The firſt on a large ſtream, and the ſecond on a ſmall tributary one; and he will conclude that the diminutive ending was in this caſe peculiarly adopted to diſtinguiſh theſe fords, which are ſo near each other. From what has been ſtated it will appear that *Hartingford* implies the little ſtream ford; and *Hartford* the ſtream ford.

The HÆDUI

Are derived, not as authors have imagined, but from *Ed, Eid,* or *Heid,* cattle, and *Du* land or country. "Theſe people, Mr. Whitaker ſays, retained the name of their parent tribe of Gaul:" but no ſituation more plainly beſpeaks its own name, nor more ſtrongly contradicts the ſuppoſed colonization of this kingdom from *nations* of the *ſame name* on the Continent. The etymon for this denomination was unknown. The *Hædui* poſſeſſed the grazing parts of Somerſet and Glouceſterſhire, and the appellation implies the cattle land inhabitants.

From not underſtanding the aboriginal mode of naming places, and for want of a key to old denominations, our introductions to books of ancient hiſtory, and of local deſcription, are ſo intermixed with ludicrous conceits on the one hand, and with ſo much miſapplied reſearch on the other, that the reader will often be amuſed with the weakneſs and irrationality in the one, and be diſtreſſed for the deficiency of judgment and deſign in the other. He will moreover perceive, that many of our beſt, and moſt uſeful

hiſtoric_{al}

hiſtorical writings require correction unknown to their authors. I might give quotations without number, to evince the truth of this aſſertion, from writers who have traced the hiſtory of mankind through various ages of the world; and who have deduced nations of like names from one another, where no direct communication ever took place; and where nothing but ſimilar ſituations produced like denominations.

Hiſtory ſhould be re-written in numberleſs inſtances, and in every caſe it ſhould produce certain evidences to ſet aſide names, which appear evidently to have been taken from nature: and of theſe, our belief ſhould reſt, not on the opinions of ancient credulous writers, nor on fanciful modern ones; but on proofs ariſing from facts, collected from obſervation, and evinced from their dependence on reaſon, and the ancient mode of beſtowing names.

But we have no authentic documents, for aſſertions without number, with which our hiſtorical writers are filled; and nothing but fancy ariſing from our ignorance of the natural import of denominations has generally introduced

introduced foreigners for giving names, to parts of this and other kingdoms, derived from their former reſidences.

It is granted by hiſtorians "that fathers and heads of families were the firſt ſovereigns, and that the patriarchal was the moſt ancient form of government." Hence mankind muſt have originally migrated in families, and time and neceſſity only, from the great number of theſe, formed nations. The firſt inhabitants coming thus, brought no *national* name, nor were any denominations given to places in Britain, but ſuch as their natural ſituation implied. In time however tribes became numerous, and more general communication with each other became neceſſary; and now denominations of villages and diſtricts were regulated, and more diſtinct appellations from prefixes were given. There were very few wholly inland provinces in this nation: and that the maritime diſtricts generally took ſynonymes for their names, expreſſive of their ſituation upon the ſea, in the ſame manner as towns on ſtreams, from the water which flowed by them, we may thus ſhew.

The

The *Carnabii* were the dwellers at the ſea, or great corner or horn; the *Danmonii* the inhabitants of the ſtream or water country; the *Morini* or *Durotriges* people of the great water or ſea coaſt; the *Regni* or *Riani* were the reſidents on the little ſea or ſea land; the *Canti* dwellers at the corner or head; the *Trinobantes* inhabitants on the great ſtreams; the *Iceni* or *Cenomanni* people of water land, or great head land; the *Coritani* dwellers on the ſtream, lake, or bend land; the *Pariſii* inhabitants of the water portion, or head land; the *Brigantes* dwellers on the water or hill country; the *Carnabii* reſidents at the water corner; the *Ordovices* inhabitants of the great hill country; the *Dimaetæ* dwellers on the little ſea; the *Silures* people of the water, ſea, or hill border; the *Belgæ* dwellers on the water land; the *Hædui* I have juſt mentioned.

I muſt further obſerve that the inhabitants of *Kent* are ſuppoſed by writers to be of Belgic extraction, the *Regni* of the ſame, the *Attrebati*, by ſome, the ſame, the *Durotriges* the ſame; and to the north of theſe, were nations accounted Belgæ. But it ſeems that theſe

theſe, although deſcended from this nation, were not named from them ; but on the contrary, adopted denominations deſcriptive of their ſituations.—Moreover many of the diſtricts of the Continent, inhabited by people named *Belgæ*, aſſumed alſo names for their diſtricts according to their ſituations : *but the diſtrict of the Belgæ of England it ſeems is not ſuppoſed ſo to have taken its name*, BECAUSE THE BELGÆ WERE A NATION ON THE CONTINENT : *and for this reaſon only I preſume !*—Was the *Durius* in England then named from the *Durius* in Portugal ? Was *Aquæ Calidæ* in Somerſet, peopled or named from *Aquæ Calidæ* in Portugal ?—If the *Cumbri* of Cumberland, came from the *Cimbri* of the Continent, as many authors have aſſerted, and aimed to prove at great length, then might I place *Umbri* in *North-umber-land*, and bring a colony of the Umbri from Italy, for their foreſathers.—But *Um* in Northumberland is known to be derived from the *Humber*, and this from the old name *Abus*.

On the whole it is demonſtrable that we gained names from ſituations only during the patriarchal government, or very ſoon after, and

and have never loſt notices of them ſince: for as rivers, hills, plains, &c. were neceſſary to be diſtinguiſhed by names in theſe times, and as lands were to be portioned and diſtinguiſhed, for knowing one part from another; ſo alſo would the ſeveral diſtricts of the kingdom be diſtinguiſhed, in which theſe portions were ſituated. Hence then was the kingdom early divided into portions, and ſoon after into provinces.

Notwithſtanding what is here ſtated, I wiſh not to carry any general principle too far; peculiar circumſtances may have occurred, and theſe have varied the denominations of certain places in England. But the remembrance of early names, to which we have been ſpeaking, outlives ages; and where a general principle was evidently followed, and a better or more rational one cannot be ſubſtituted, it ſhould not be given up for the reconciliation of *old prejudices*, nor for the accommodation of *long deviation* from plain truths.

I had intended not to have treated of the ancient names of North Britain, but a *few* interfering with my plan, I have extended my enquiries.

The CALEDONII

Is a name miſtaken by our moſt able critics and antiquaries. "All theſe tribes, ſays Mr. Whitaker,* were firſt called by the general appellation of Caledonians or Caledonian Britons. And the name was not derived as the learned Mr. Macpherſon imagines from *Cael* and *Don*, ſignifying the Gauls of the hills. It was the denomination of the inhabitants equally in the low lands of the eaſtern coaſt, and on the mountains of northern and weſtern highlands. Originally peculiar to the tribe that ranged in a line acroſs the iſland, and inhabited the hills in common with the Cerones and Creones, the Carnonacæ and others, it was derived from the great foreſt that ſwept acroſs all the weſtern parts of the country. And the foreſts of Britain in general, and the three greateſt of them in particular, were diſtinguiſhed among the natives by the ſimple denomination of Caledon or woods. Reſiding almoſt entirely within the precincts of an extenſive wood, the nation was originally denominated the Caledon-ii or Woodlanders, and communicated its name to all the tribes that lay north of the friths."

* See alſo Baxter for a like account.

"The

"The name of the Caledonii, which from being the proper name of one nation, ſays Dr. Henry from Dr. Macpherſon, became the common denomination of many, is evidently compounded of two Britiſh words *Caël* and *Dun*, which ſignify the Gauls or Britons of the mountains: a name very proper for the real Caledonii of Baden-och, Braidalbin, and the adjacent tracts, which are the moſt mountainous parts of Scotland, and not very unſuitable to the other nations, to whom it was given by the Roman authors."

Mr. Macpherſon, in his introduction to the hiſtory of Great Britain, ſays that "this etymon firſt occurred to him, and he communicated it to Dr. Macpherſon, who adopted it from a conviction of its juſtneſs." But our authors are in this inſtance, as indeed they have been in all other names of provinces, miſtaken. *Cau* is hill, and *Cal* is the ſame; the laſt is derived from *Au* varied to *Al*, as in *Hal*-don, in *Cal-ſtock*, and in many other names. *Don* is often wrongly rendered; its root in this name is *On* land. The *Caledonii* then imply people of the hill land. *Caledon* rendered woods, diſtinguiſhes not one diſtrict

from another, and marks not a diſtinction between hills, vallies, and plains. Neither do the *Gauls* produce a derivation which denotes the particular features of the country, or which is deſcriptive of the mountains intended to be particularized by the hill country. Laſtly, in naming provinces, the land only was originally deſcribed in the ſingular number of the denomination: the plural denoted the inhabitants. Theſe are particulars to which writers ſeldom have attended; and from their inattention to theſe, thouſands of errors have ariſen in the hiſtory of nations, the local deſcriptions of countries, and in the derivations of the names of the ſtates and diſtricts of Europe.

The SELGOVIÆ

Were ſeated on the ſhores of Solway frith. Mr. Baxter ſuppoſes that the name of this people is compounded of *Sel* and *Gi ii*, which he ſays ſignifies ſalt waves, alluding to Solway frith, with which the coaſts of their country were waſhed; but Dr. Macpherſon derives it from *Sealg*, which literally ſignifies hunting, and metaphorically theft. Mr. Macpherſon ſays that "*Selgovæ* is plainly *Selgovich* latinized.

ized. *Selgovich* literally ſignifying *hunters*, in a metaphorical ſenſe *plunderers*, a name, he ſays, by which their ſucceſſors in the ſame country ought to have been diſtinguiſhed till within a little more than a century back. *Gadeni*, he alſo ſtates, is plainly from *Gadenin*, *robbers*, and *thieves*; a name which aroſe from the ſame love of depredation, with their friends and neighbours the Selgovæ."*

We have ſhewn under the head *Scilly* the import of the word *Sol*. *Govæ* is derived from *Geamh* or *Geav*, a *branch* or *ſlip*; and the Selgeavæ or Selgovæ were inhabitants reſiding on the lands of this branch or ſlip of the ſea, to wit. Solway frith. Thus peculiarly happy were the ancients in applicably naming their provinces, whilſt more particularly unfortunate are the moderns, in neither accurately, or even tolerably, rendering their denominations.

The GADENI.

"We can hardly ſuppoſe, ſays Dr. Henry, with Camden, that this people poſſeſſed ſo large a tract of country as Tiviotdale, Twedale, Mers, and the Lothians, ſince Ptolomy

* Intr. to Hiſt. Great Britain.

hath

hath not mentioned one town within their territories. It is more probable that they were a ſmall nation inhabiting the moſt deſart and mountainous parts of Tiviotdale and Northumberland." Mr. Baxter derives this name from *Gaden* to fly or wander.

In the above derivations of Mr. Macpherſon and Mr. Baxter, the land is not deſcribed, and we have found that from the deſcription of the country only, were the original inhabitants firſt named. This people, according to Dr. Henry's deſcription, are likely to have taken their names from their hills. *Gad* derived from *Aithe*, changed to *Ait*, *At*, and *Ad*, with *g* prefixed as in Gad's hill, Kent, may mean hill. *Ad* is indeed a root in many names of hills, and in denominations of places on hills. But *Gad* alſo in many appellations comes from *Ad* water, with *g* prefixed, as in the river *Gade* in Hertfordſhire, and in the river *Ged* or *Gad* of this province. The *En* in the endings of words generally appears to imply country; and in this word it will be the ſame.

The ancients, who regulated the appellations of diſtricts, fixed not *thieves* on their own

own foreheads; and the trouble taken to deck their brows with the title, hath been idly ſpent. In *Selgoviæ* the tranſlation *plunderers* is evidently wrong: and from the *Gadeni* further examinations may ſhew, that in the derivations of names, where nothing lies deeper than correſponding ſounds, common ſenſe is often deſerted.

IVERNIA, HIBERNIA, ERIN, IRELAND.

"*Eirin*, Ireland, ſays Mr. Shaw, *i. e. Iar-inn*, weſtern iſland;" but *Iar-inn* cannot imply the *weſtern iſland*: for *in* or *inn* is land only, and wants ſome term for water, to form a word which denotes *iſland*. The term *Ir* or *Eir* may be ſuch a word.

Mr. Whitaker ſtates, that "the iſland was denominated *Er-in*, *Ier-ine*, *Ier-ne*, or *Iver-nia*: *Er*, *Ier*, or *Iv-er*, ſignifying, he ſays, the weſtern; and *In-is*, *Ine*, or *In*, the iſland."—There is leſs diſcrimination than confuſion in this ſtatement. Whatever *Er* or *Ier* may mean, *Iv-er* will not imply the ſame. *In* alſo is land or country only, as mentioned above; but *In-is* is the water country or iſland. The word *Is* for water, changed to *Er*, and tranſpoſed in *Er-in*, is the ſame as *Ir* in *Ire-land*.

A late writer ſays that *Er-in* implies the land of the moon; and I have already ſtated that he renders *Britannia*, "the land of the fifth god Noah, who entered into the covenant."—Mr. Macpherſon derives *Hibernia* from the Latin adjective *Hibernus*, and has a long and curious diſquiſition, to prove this ſingular diſcovery.

General Vallancey tranſlates *Er-in* nearly the ſame as Mr. Shaw and Mr. Whitaker; but it has been tranſlated by others, the laſt, or utmoſt habitation; and may be derived from *Er* border or end; and *In*, country.

Moreover, *Ivernia*, *Hibernia*, *Erin*, and *Ireland*, are ſynonymous names; and *Iv* derived from *Av* water, is the ſame as *Ir* or *Er*, derived alſo from *Av* changed to *Au*, *Ar*, *Er*, or *Ir*.—*In* or *En* land may be changed to *Eun*, "as the *u* in the dipthong, *eu* ſerves often to lengthen the *e* only:" and as *u* and *r* are convertible, *Eun* and *Ern* will imply the ſame. Laſtly, *Iv* and *Ib* or *Hib* are alſo ſynonymes: from whence it will appear, that theſe names may imply the water or border land.

BRITANNIA,

Brit, which has been ſhewn to come from *Ad* water, may alſo be derived from *Aith* an hill, varied to *Ait*, *Et*, or *It*. *Er* or *Erin* has been ſuppoſed to be derived from *Er* or *Earr*, border or end; and if this ſuppoſition ſhould be true, *Bri* or *Bre*, in Briton, may have been uſed as a ſubſtantive, and have implied *home*, *beginning*, or neareſt part; as *Er* in *Erin* did the furtheſt part.

General Vallancey derives Britain from *Bruit*, tin or lead; and *Tan* land. But this iſland was probably firſt named from its principal features, and long before tin and lead were diſcovered. Mr. Macpherſon derives it from *Brait* high, and *in* country: but this is placing the adjective before the ſubſtantive, which was not common in *old* names. To the opinion that the "name was *not* applied to the region, but beſtowed on the inhabiters," as aſſerted by Mr. Whitaker, I dare not ſubſcribe. *Bre* or *Bri* is Gaelic for an hill; and *Tain* is land; Britain may therefore, from Mr. W's. own interpretation of *Albion*, mean hill country. Further we know that *Brig*, *Bric*, *Bris*, and *Brit* imply, from ſome

roots, *hill;* from others *water.* *Brigant,* which may imply *hill land,* is ſaid to mean a *high-lander (hill-lander):* the *Brigantes* from hence may alſo imply dwellers on hills. Juſt ſo will *Britain* mean hill land.

Mr. Whitaker, in page 14, vol. 1, hiſt. of St. Germans, ſays, "ſo alſo the Gauls of Armorica were called Britons, aſſuredly, as ſome Gauls of Picardy certainly were: and as all the Gauls of our iſlands avowedly were at the time of the Roman reduction of them; yet from ſome circumſtances, *unknown to us,* generally called Armoricans then; and from others, *equally unknown,* were commonly entitled Britons afterwards."

On the above we muſt obſerve, that the word *Is-land* implies water land; but water land meant not, originally, land *ſurrounded* by water only, but territories *bordering* thereon alſo. Hence what are tranſlated the iſlands of the Gentiles in ſcriptures, meant generally lands *bordering* upon the water or ocean.—The names of iſlands were varied, as the words for rivers and hills. Sometimes indeed *ſmall iſlands* were named *little* lands: thus *Lundy* or *Landy* is little land. *Vectis* may alſo mean the

the ſame, though this laſt may imply the ſame as *In-is* or *Is-land*, water or little land. Water land then implying iſland, or land ſurrounded by water, is thus diſtinguiſhed from *In-land* diſtricts. *Iſlands* however might not be thus diſtinguiſhed were they named *hill lands*. But whether Britain mean the *home*, the *hill*, or the *water* land, will only perhaps be determined, from more obſervations on the ſituations of places, beginning with *Bre*, *Bri*, *Bret*, *Brit*, *Bred*, *Brid*, &c.

Britain, or Briton, I have elſewhere attempted to ſhew may imply ſea or water land. *Armorica* alſo implies the great water or ſea territory; and therefore the *Britoni* would be a very proper appellation for the natives of either country, as Armorican would be alſo for a native of Armorica.

ALBIN, ALBAN, and ALBION.

Albion has been derived from *Alben* white, and from *Albion* the giant, of whom I cannot give the reader a genealogy. Mr. Macpherſon derives *Albin* from *Alb* or *Alp*, which he renders *high*, and *In* country; but this ſeems to be contrary to the *ancient* mode of forming names, which was to place the adjective

after the ſubſtantive. Moreover, from what follows, the word *Alp* will be found to to imply hill; and the *Alpes* will mean the hills.—Mr. Whitaker ſays that *Albion* was a name conferred on this land *before inhabited*, "and whilſt its *Albion* or *Heights* were only viewed at a diſtance from the oppoſite ſhore of Gaul." But General Vallancey, who renders it the eaſtern land, will not allow that this country wears the aſpect here contended for, when viewed from the coaſt of Belgia. *Albania* may come from *Al* a cliff, *ban* white, and *ia* country, and mean the white cliff land; and this name may have appropriately been given to Britain before it was ſettled by inhabitants from the oppoſite coaſt. But *Alb* in *Albion*, *Albin*, or *Alban* may be derived from *A* or *Au* an hill, changed to *Av*, *Ab*, *Aub*, and (as *u* was in old names convertible to *l*) to *Alb*. Or it may come from *Av* water, changed to *Aub* and *Alb*; as in the *Alba*, a river in Spain, and the *Albis* or *Elbe*, in Germany. Thus it appears that *Alb* and *Brit* will admit of being rendered hill or water. We have found in various inſtances, that the names of ſtreams have been tranſferred to the lands upon them; and thoſe of lands have, no doubt, been given

to

to their ſtreams. Where the roots of words would admit of different explanations, and the features of the lands were ſuited to any of them, it appears as if the ancient inhabitants had adopted ſuch roots: their prefixes were varied chiefly for the purpoſe of diſtinguiſhing names from each other. I have only to add than *Ion*, *In*, or *An* means *land*.

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*The *Head* Border Land inſtead of the *Water* Border Land as in Page 214

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* Each was found to imply Houſe in Page 144. This Word is the Root of *Teach*, an Habitation; and when changed to *igh*, is alſo the Root of *Tigh*, an Houſe; and of *Bigh* or *By*, as in *Tenbigh* or *Tenby*. *Cai* alſo, I conceive, was thus derived, and was perhaps originally written *Caigh*, from whence our provincial Term *Caige*, an Houſe. From this and other Roots, the Variation of Prefixes appears to have been common; & from hence *all* the Roots of the Gaelic Language may perhaps be found but few, comparatively ſpeaking, in Number.

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*Under this Head the Derivation of one Nation from another is conſidered; and like Names proved to be no Proof of ſuch Derivation.

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For Etymologicon, vol 9. d. 04. S. in Page 87, read Etymologicon, vel. q. d. A. S.

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*Printed wrongly page 201 Molliniek.

†When I composed the Article above referred to, I had not considered the meaning of the Word *Ton*; & supposing that it originally implied what is generally understood by it, I was at a loss to account for the name of this Town. The Reader will easily conceive to what etymological Conceits Authors are liable, when they examine not strictly their steps. I had intended to analise the Word Ton; but thinking it already well defined, I omitted my Task, until I had printed as far as Ashburton; when, to my great surprise, I found the Word anciently implied *Land*. Moretonhamstead will therefore very appropriately mean, the *Moor Land Border Settlement*: and the Parish is evidently named, from its lying on the Border of Dartmoor. I have further to add, that all our Dictionaries give us wrong Explanations of the *original* import of this word. See the word Ashburton.

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*Tor may be derived from *Tamb* or *Tav* changed to *Tau*; the *u*, to prevent the cloſhing of Vowels, and to produce a ſtronger Sound, changed to *r*. Thus *Tau-ich* or *Tau-ige* was changed to *Toriche* or *Torige*: hence Tor in Torbay, and many other Names beginning with *Tor*, implies Water.

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FINIS.

WOOLMER, PRINTER, EXETER.

ERRATA AND ADDENDA.

PAGE 10, *l.* 3, for was *r.* were—31 *r.* Initial—36 *r.* Etymologicon—42 *r.* means—54 *l.* 8, *r.* thus *Baiter* and *Baiſter* is Water—but *C* in Iſc may be changed to T, thus Faſcellus, is in Italian Faſtello—and Uiſge is in the language of Mona *Wyſtee*—55 for take *r.* takes—70, *l.* 12, after names add *Col* comes from Av water changed to Ou and Ol, with C prefixed—71 *r.* Roman—97 and 119 for there *r.* theſe—97 Kil in Kilkenny may otherwiſe imply Hill, &c. ſee Treſkelly—101 *r.* Molinick—110, *l.* 18, *r.* has been juſtly—116 and 136 *r.* Hals—125 for Don, ſee page 204—127 for names *r.* name—136, *l.* 5, wants mark of Quotation—144 *r.* parts—146 *r.* Wapentake—159, *l.* 9, for land and, *r.* land or—166 for Engliſh *r.* England—164 *r.* fortean—168, *l.* 17, dele more—for Author's *r.* Authors—174 for is *r.* it—177 *r.* imply—185 *r.* Nottinghamſhire—190 for leaſt *r.* leſs—211, *l.* 6, for or, *r.* and—214, *l.* 10, for water *r.* head—241 in note add he—247, *l.* 5, *r.* Paris—274 *r.* Bodo—275 *r.* ſeem—278 *r*, Aboriginal.

It ſhould be obſerved throughout this book, that the names of diſtricts or pariſhes, originally referred to the *lands*, and not to the villages or towns.

Endings in *Den*, *Din*, &c. from *In* and *En*, ſeem generally to mean land, in old names, though rendered otherwiſe in Dictionaries, and by Authors: Hence *Pendinnis* may imply the little head land.

Mor, from *a* or *au* an hill, changed to *au* and *or*, with *m* prefixed, may alſo mean hill. *Morden*, page 102, may imply hill land.

We diſlike antiquated and vulgar names, and often adopt, euphoniæ gratia, ſuch additional letters, that with difficulty do we recogniſe the original, except through the vulgar denomination. I have ſaid that names as commonly pronounced, are often nearer to the original than as they are written. Thus *Alphington*, Devon, pronounced Afinton, the firſt ſyllable of which from *av* water, is nearer the etymon than *Alph*: Thus alſo *Thorverton*, Devon, in Doomſday *Tovreton* or *Toverton*, is now pronounced *Daverton*; the firſt ſyllable of which, from *Tav* a ſtream, is nearer the original word than *Thor*. Some objections to the above having been ſuggeſted, I again ſtate my opinion, and leave the reader to judge for himſelf.

Tre, Tri or *Trighe* an habitation, conſidered by Dr. Pryce an original Britiſh word, is derived as *Bigh, Caighe*, and *Tighe*, from the root IGH. *Triv* or *Trev*, another Corniſh name, comes perhaps from the root *Ibb, Iv*, or *Ev* with *Tr* prefixed.

Words convey the images or ideas which ariſe in our minds, from our perceptions of things: and it is ſaid that Plato expected a plain agreement between the name and the thing; and that where there was a diſagreement,

ment, he would never admit a conjecture. In this treatiſe I have endeavoured to explain every thing by its own name; and to the Mythologiſt I leave explanations by metaphors.

Of all the conceits which occupy the mind, thoſe which derive ſtreams, hills, ſettlements, &c. from birds, animals, men, &c. ſeem to be the moſt difficult to account for. With a few *common* names for water and for hills, to give *proper* names to many thouſands of ſtreams and hills in this nation, it was found neceſſary to vary conſonants and vowels; and to employ prefixes and poſtfixes.—No other *ſufficient* mode could be found which would rationally explain the various circumſtances of the features of nature. With theſe variations, and additions, a few old denominations are like the names of birds, and other things in different languages: Thus *Aiſgeir* is ſaid to imply a mountain, and it is aſſerted, "that there are many mountains in Wales of the name of *Eſgir*; but ſo uſed metaphorically, the word ſignifying in Welſh, a leg."* This confuſion, ariſing from the uſe of the name of one thing, for that of another, proceeds ſometimes from not analyſing words. *Ais* is Gaelic

* Lhuyd's Archæologia, p. 5, and this Book, p. 155.

for hill; *geir* is alſo ſpelt by ſome *gear*; and this part of the compound term, may imply ſhort, ſharp, pointed, &c.; and *Aiſgear* will mean the ſhort, ſharp, or pointed hill; hence the word has no metaphorical alluſion to a leg.—Thus alſo in Wales, two ſtreams, from *Och* and *An* or *En*, water, with the prefixes *C* and *H*, obtained their proper names: They are pronounced as our Engliſh words, *Cock* and *Hen*, and it is imagined that from our *Cock* and *Hen*, theſe Gaelic proper names were derived.—The reader need not to be reminded of Dean Swift's deriving Greek names from the Engliſh.

Engliſh words borrowed from the Gaelic are more numerous than commonly imagined. I have marked in Mr. Shaw's Dictionary, ſeveral hundred words, from which our language is partly and originally derived. Authors are not aware, to what extent we are indebted to this language for our adjuncts. I have already ſhewn this in various inſtances; and will here produce a very particular one more. *Amhail* poſtfixed in Gaelic names forms comparative nouns: the Gaelic *mh* is our *v*, which was often changed to *b*: *Amhail* would therefore become *Avail*, and *Abail*; and as *ai* was pronounced *e*,* *Abail* has been pronounced *Abel* from which our ending in *able*, like,

* See Lhuyd's Archæologia.

like, as, &c. is I conceive derived. Our preſent great and juſtly celebrated Etymological writer has however a diſſertation to prove that this adjunct comes from the Saxon and Engliſh word *full*.—But *probable* may mean *proof-like*, not proof-*ful*: companionable, companion-*like*, not companion-*ful*.

For ſuch as will not attend to the changes of letters and ſyllables, and to the corruption of names, I add the following. To form a word for ſtream, it ſeemed not abſolutely neceſſary to have a liquid prefixed to the root of the name: Thus the rivers *Clan* or *Crane*, might have been written *Can*, which implies a lake or ſtream. On the other hand, it ſeems not to have been neceſſary in forming a word for ſtream, to prefix conſonants to liquids.—Thus *Trov* in the Trovius, is now *Rav* in the Ravius, which are two names for the ſame ſtream: thus alſo the *Lan*, a part of the name of the *Clan*, is alſo the denomination of a ſtream: laſtly it ſeems not to have been indiſpenſably requiſite to prefix a conſonant to common names for water; for *Av* is water, and is often uſed for ſtream, as in the *Avon* or *Aven*.

But notwithſtanding what is here ſtated, it was at leaſt convenient, in order to diſtinguiſh ſtreams

ſtreams from each other by proper names, to add theſe prefixes to the common ones for water; and the ancients had three ways o varying denominations, beſides thoſe which aroſe from changing their vowels & conſonants, and this may be ſhewn in various inſtances of every part of nature.

Thus, from An water, comes
Can a lake or ſtream,
Cran a ſtream,
Clan a ſtream,
Lan a ſtream,
From Aighe an hill, comes
Haighe in Haytorr or Heytorr,
Baigh in Baigtorr,
Blaighe in Blaigdon,
Brighe an hill,
Righe or Rye in Suſſex,
Leighe an hill.

I have explained to the reader the roots of words, and could wiſh further to illuſtrate their conſonant prefixes. To General Vallancy's Proſpectus and Grammar might I refer him; but he may expect ſomething more here. In the Hebrew, the letter *H* implies *the* or *this*. The Welch and Corniſh *H* often changes into an *S* or an *F* in the Iriſh, and ſometimes into *C*. Hence the *Havren* is

the